

ELIZABETH'S STORY

Our exclusive serialisation of Sarah Bradford's authoritative biography of the Queen



PAGE 13

Part four: her devotion to duty sets her apart from her own children



INTERFACE How to find the right image for your product at a stroke



The bad girls Channel 4's new Girlie Show is all mouth and no trousers

Terrorists hijack Black Sea ferry

By Michael Evans... HEAVILY armed Chechen rebels seized a Turkish ferry in the Black Sea port of Trabzon last night...

about 20 Chechens firing Kalashnikov automatic rifles at about 6.20 pm local time...

person already. Three hours later, the raiders found the ferry's Turkish captain Mustafa Tunay...



in the devastated Chechen capital of Grozny, a new hostage crisis developed when an unidentified group kidnapped up to 40 workers...

back into the centre of the village where they were holding the mosque and school and several nearby buildings...

killed. Moviadi Udugov, a Chechen rebel spokesman, claimed the bodies of more than 200 Russian soldiers were lying in the streets...

TUC chief hails Blair boost for unions

By Philip Webster, Political Editor... THE leader of the trade union movement hails the political dispute over Tony Blair's plans for a 'stakeholder economy'...

lead to a return to the 1970s, or give the Tories a chance to return their anti-union arguments of the 1980s...



Monks fuels dispute over stakeholding

Mawhinney, the Conservative chairman, declared that Mr Monks had confirmed the warnings that he and the Prime Minister had been giving about Mr Blair's plans...

Internet Times

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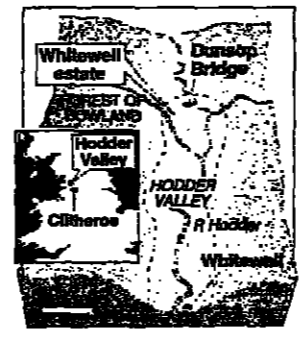


The Queen's idyll, the Hodder valley in northern Lancashire: she is quoted in Sarah Bradford's biography Elizabeth as saying this is where she would like to retire to

Quiet valley the Queen dreams of making her home

By Kate Alderson

Bowland, which she once told a friend: 'Philip and I would like to retire to'...



THE Lancashire backwater in which the Queen dreams of retiring with the Duke of Edinburgh is revealed today as the Hodder Valley, set in 6,000 acres of Crown lands in the Forest of Bowland...

stone walls, and is sparsely populated. But there are plenty of pheasant, salmon, grouse and trout. Dunsop Bridge is given on the Ordnance Survey national grid as the 'exact centre of Great Britain and 401 associated islands'...

bought from the Towneley family by the Duke in 1938. In 1989 the Queen threw a private party there for all her tenants...

visited by the Duke and Duchess of York during their early courtship, dates back at least to the 15th century as a royal hunting lodge and members of the Royal Family have

'called in over the years,' according to the owner and Queen's tenant, Richard Bowman.

Ski star killed in downhill crash

By Leyla Linton

KIRSTEEN MCGIBBON, Britain's female downhill skiing champion, was killed yesterday after crashing during training in Austria...



McGibbon: knocked out during training run

Nunn hits back at TV opera attack

By Stephen Farrell

TREVOR NUNN, the theatre director, last night attacked Sir James Spenser, the Royal Opera House board chairman, for calling him a 'bastard' during a television documentary...

Internet Times

The Internet edition of The Times is now available on http://www.the-times.co.uk

Simon Jenkins and diary, page 16

Advertisement for Thomas Pink shirts, featuring the brand logo and 'SHIRTS Thomas Pink Sale Final Reductions Last Day, Saturday 20th'.

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LETTERS 17 OBITUARIES 19 SIMON JENKINS 16

ARTS 32-34 CHESS & BRIDGE 41 COURT & SOCIAL 18

SPORT 39-42, 44 FASHION 14 LAW REPORT 20

Defector's best-laid plans suffer circulation problems

It is in order to call Michael Howard odious? MPs briefly discussed this important subject yesterday. On Monday, Alice Mahon (Lab, Halifax) had asked Madam Speaker what methods were available to ask the Minister of State and her odious boss about the "barbaric practice" of shackling pregnant women prisoners.

the House was grateful that Mrs Mahon had rephrased her remarks. "Oh no we aren't" cried a bunch of Opposition MPs.

Perhaps Labour's Andrew Faulds (Warley E) was among them. The busy-bearded actor (retired) returned after a long illness last year, but he is feeling better now, as he is starting to be nasty. Faulds was unconvinced that "odious" as applied to Mr Howard, is out of order. Could MPs vote on this, he asked? Madam Speaker brushed this



it de Tocqueville who remarked that the French Constitution, in all its magnificence, afforded to noblemen and beggars an equal right to sleep under bridges? Yesterday Lady Olga, in all her magnificence, explained that in her Tory version of the "stakeholder society" people did have a stake in society because they could own their own homes, and shares on the stock exchange, and pay lower taxes.

the debate which followed, when Emma Nicholson (W Devon & Torridge) made her maiden speech as a Liberal Democrat. Both Olga and Emma have supreme Tory voices, but of two distinct kinds. Nicholson — rich and brashly — speaks County Tory. Maidland — cut glass — speaks Eaton Square Tory.

services in Tory Lady Speak of both the dialects, for those dwindling but influential pockets among the world's population who still prefer to be addressed in these tones.

had circulated it among all Tory MPs. The entire Government benches paged noisily through, giggling, as head-down, Miss Nicholson ploughed on, refusing all interruptions.

Heseltine's gaffe is just the job for Opposition

By Nicholas Wood, Chief Political Correspondent

MICHAEL HESELTINE confirmed yesterday what most of the country has feared for years — that Cabinet ministers do not know what day of the week it is. The Deputy Prime Minister disclosed the monthly unemployment news a day before its official publication.

His blunder was doubly embarrassing because he chairs the Cabinet's committee on the co-ordination and presentation of Government policy — better known as the "banana skins" department. One of the Tory spin doctors reacted by saying he was going off into a corner to have a quiet weep.

least because of the lengths the Central Statistical Office goes to keep the jobless figures under wraps until the deadline of the Wednesday falling around the middle of the month. A spokesman said that reporters from news and financial agencies are kept "in quarantine" until the deadline, when they are allowed to rush the figures out to the markets and the waiting world using computer terminals at CSO headquarters in London.

Labour and the unions alighted gleefully on Mr Heseltine's hiccup. John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB union, dubbing him "Tarzan, Lord of the Jungle". John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, said: "This is a monumental blunder by the deputy Prime Minister — the man responsible for the presentation of Government policy. It is meant to be Mr Heseltine's job to make sure this kind of thing never happens."



Flight Lieutenant Kevin Seymour yesterday proved himself the most proficient combat pilot in the multi-billion pound Eurofighter — even though the plane is still in its development stage.

Computer takes pilots on flight into future

several years behind schedule and billions of pounds over budget but the computer game, TFX-EF2000, costs mere hundreds and is highly effective. Developed by Digital Image Design of Warrington, Lancashire, the game incorporates every un-

classified detail of the Eurofighter's specification that the designers could glean. The company says the result is so convincing it has won them a contract for a simulator from Nato.

Donaldson questions Hindley jail term

The Home Secretary could face a fresh challenge in the courts after a former Master of the Rolls yesterday questioned the legality of keeping the Moors murderer Myra Hindley in jail for the rest of her life.

Rising numbers of students are leaving university because they cannot cope with the academic demands of their course, vice-chancellors said yesterday. An estimated 54,000 full-time students abandoned their studies in 1994-95, 10 per cent more than the previous year.

More students drop out

St Mary's Hospital in London has turned away children with meningitis because its expertise in dealing with the illness has brought it more referrals than it can handle.

Meningitis cases refused

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Masari move defended

In the Commons, John Major defended the decision to order the removal of the Saudi dissident Muhammad al-Masari from Britain to the Caribbean island of Dominica.

Irish honour Charlton

Jack Charlton, left, who resigned last month after ten years as manager of the Irish Republic's football team, is set to become an honorary Irish citizen.

Wills legislation shelved

The Government has shelved plans to bring in new legislation to allow "living wills" and to regulate right-to-die cases, the Lord Chancellor announced yesterday.

Radon plans changed

The Government announced a change in its measures against the threat of radon, a radioactive gas that can increase the risk of contracting lung cancer.

Dublin accused fail to appear

By Nicholas Watt, Ireland Correspondent

UNIONISTS and Conservatives expressed anger last night after three alleged republican terrorists failed to appear at a hearing at Dublin's anti-terrorist Special Criminal Court.

political parties on both sides of the border. Market Research Consultancy (Ireland) interviewed 1,051 people from both communities at 50 locations across Northern Ireland last week for last night's poll.

Jack Charlton, left, who resigned last month after ten years as manager of the Irish Republic's football team, is set to become an honorary Irish citizen.

Opera row

Continued from page 1 asked on November 1, while I was in America, to make cuts and I tried to be helpful while protecting the central idea of the production.

IRA bomber wins damages for fall

THE terrorist bomber Donna Maguire was awarded £13,500 damages yesterday against the Government for an injury she suffered when she tripped on a footpath in Northern Ireland almost 11 years ago.

Why men don't shop

Despite all the talk of new men, only one in 25 makes the weekly visit to the supermarket, a survey by the Somerfield supermarket chain suggests.

Falklands await Argentine visitor

Gurr, the islands' chief executive, said: "Most people see this as a private visit and they will be treated accordingly."

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IRA bomber wins damages for fall

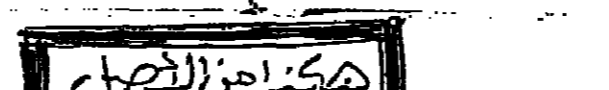
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Newbury protesters face eviction from bypass base

BY NIGEL WILLIAMSON AND TIM JONES

EVIDENCE against "professional protesters" compiled by a private detective agency will be used by government solicitors next week in legal proceedings to evict the tree-house dwellers delaying construction of the Newbury bypass.

The High Court will be asked to grant possession orders on four sites occupied by the demonstrators, many of whom are associated with militant environmental groups such as Earth First! and Road Alert. A number of individuals have been identified from previous anti-road protests by Brays, a Southampton-based detective agency also employed by the Government at Twyford Down and for the M11 protest in east London.

A spokeswoman for the Highways Agency, which is building the nine-mile bypass, said: "The names from one site all come up again at the others." She said that Brays had passed on the names and evidence to the Treasury Solicitor, and further action was planned to seek possession of at least half a dozen other

camps along the proposed A34 route. Police have expressed concern about the role of highly organised radical groups, sometimes known as "eco-warriors". A Special Branch dossier names Earth First! as a main "direct action" group. Earth First! was founded by Jason Torrance, 24, who was one of ten people jailed over the Twyford Down protest.



Bentham: said business opposed route of road

The group's newsletter carries a "destruction hotline" number with a Reading code and asks supporters to ring and leave your number so you can be contacted to help stop work. The group has established a "safe camp" to accommodate protesters arriving from other parts of the country.

The organisation is on the Internet and offers a legal helpline for arrested protesters. It also advises on how to claim state benefits and prevent the local jobcentre finding unwelcome employment.

Earth First!'s current newsletter bears the motto "breaking something is the only way" in Welsh and describes itself as "based on a concept of non-hierarchical organisation, direct action and the empowerment of individuals to confront the ecological catastrophe facing our planet".

Emma Must, 29, a former librarian, and Rebecca Lush, 23, a politics student from Hampshire, founder members of Road Alert, are also taking a prominent role. Both spent a month in Holloway

prison for their activities at the Twyford Down protest.

The eviction move came as local businessmen claimed the £100 million bypass was in the wrong place and should be on the eastern side of the town, close to industry. Yesterday, Adrian Foster-Fletcher, who runs a recruitment agency, said: "I am totally opposed to the bypass, particularly on the route they are now ploughing through. It is disruptive and divisive."

"But if there must be a bypass it should be built on the east side of the town where most of the business is," John Bentham, another local businessman, said. "Basically, we are talking about the destruction of beautiful English countryside. If the bypass has to be built they should consider the tunnel option or other solutions."

Another businessman, Clive Osborne, said: "The destruction just seems to be too great. In any event, it is being built in the wrong place, on the wrong side of town from where the industries are." David Rendel, the Liberal Democrat MP for



Demonstrators tie themselves to a tree. Other eco-warriors have been identified as "professional protesters"

Newbury, said he remained "totally convinced" that most people and businesses wanted the bypass. He was backed by Newbury Chamber of Commerce, which said it was certain that most of its mem-

bers were fully behind it. A spokesman for Racol Vodafone, the largest employer in Newbury, said: "We are very supportive of the bypass."

Police made 34 arrests yesterday as protesters continued to disrupt clearance work. By 11am, about 100 small trees had been cleared from a site at the northern end of the bypass route. About 20 demonstrators were later perched in the trees. Copying tactics used

against the destruction of Canadian forests, campaigners have driven nails into some trees and left notices warning that felling them with chainsaws could be highly dangerous.

High Court bans firm's advert for bald cure

A COMPANY that claimed baldness could be cured by standing upside down was forbidden from advertising its remedies by the High Court yesterday.

Quest Hair Research and Derek Tubb, the director, were ordered to stop publishing advertisements for a book, *Natural Cure for Baldness*, and a hair-restoring formula called Restore.

John Bridgeman, Director-General of the Office of Fair Trading, which brought the action, said: "Claims made for the book and the formula left consumers in no doubt that they would provide a cure for baldness. The 'cure' outlined in the book amounted to standing on your shoulders for a short period each day."

Evidence from the Office of Fair Trading included testimony from a consultant trichologist who said there was no cure for hereditary baldness.

The director-general sought the injunction after receiving complaints from the Advertising Standards Authority that Quest had continued to publish misleading advertisements despite promising that it would stop.

Mr Bridgeman said: "This was a particularly blatant and persistent attempt to mislead consumers. Companies should be in no doubt that the Office of Fair Trading will take firm action in such circumstances."

Protest to Bottomley over arts funding

BY DALYA ALBERGE ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE artistic director of the Royal Court Theatre, Stephen Daldry, the actress Eleanor Bron and the jazz musicians John Dankworth and Cleo Laine are to join a protest today against cuts in spending on the arts and museums.

Sir Michael Tippett and the sculptor Sir Anthony Caro are among prominent figures who have sent messages of support to the National Campaign for the Arts. Speakers at its "Arts Alert Day" will be introduced by Melvyn Bragg.

The campaigners are angered by the Chancellor's decision to cut the arts budget by £8.5 million over the next two years. Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, has agreed to receive a letter arguing that the arts are among our greatest national assets and asking her to "restore the level of funding in real terms to what it was at the time of the 1992 general election".

The conductor Sir Charles Mackerras said: "Like so many people inside and outside the artistic professions, I am horrified that this philtine Government continually reduces its already miserly support for the arts just when Britain's artistic institutions are flourishing."

This morning there will be a meeting at the Playhouse Theatre and, this afternoon, a lobby of Parliament.

Number crunchers chalk up 55 years

By IAN MURRAY

FIFTY-FIVE years ago, beer was 10d (4p) a pint and the average house cost less than £2,000. Now beer is £1.49 and houses average £63,000. According to the Central Statistical Office, it now costs more than £1 to buy what sold for a shilling (5p) in 1941, the year the CSO was founded on Winston Churchill's orders.

Britain's principal collector of economic statistics has produced a numerical snapshot of the intervening years to mark its birthday today. In April it will merge with the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys to collate all the nation's statistics.

The CSO was set up in the same building in Horseguards Road as the War Cabinet. Its mission was to reduce the time spent arguing about statistics by producing reliable figures on which to base decisions crucial to the war effort.

After proving its worth in war, the CSO became an essential part of the machinery of peacetime government. Its responsibilities expanded to include the retail price index and the trade figures.

Today's publication, based on the CSO's records over 55 years, shows that the number of private cars has grown from 19 million to more than 20 million, and petrol no longer rationed, is 30 times more expensive. Over those years the population has grown by almost 10 million to 56.7 million, of whom almost one in six is over 64 -- double



Churchill: needed reliable statistics

the proportion of 1941. Divorces have soared from 7,000 to 160,000 a year and births outside marriage from 53 per 1,000 to 321.

The year the CSO was created Bob Dylan, Placido Domingo and Faye Dunaway were born and James Joyce and Virginia Woolf died. The Marx brothers' *The Big Store* was competing for audiences with *The Maltese Falcon*.

THE TIMES ABERLOUR CROSSWORD CHAMPIONSHIP
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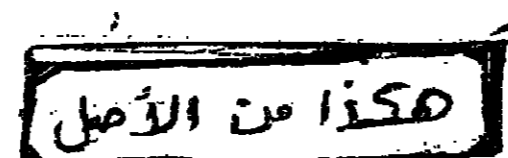
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Managers are accused of manslaughter by sending out the *Pescado* unfit to sail

Novice crew of six 'killed by executive negligence'

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

SIX novice sailors were sent to their deaths aboard an unseaworthy trawler that capsized off the Cornish coast, a court was told yesterday. In a rare prosecution, two executives of the company that owned the vessel are charged with manslaughter.

The 60-ton *Pescado*, which sailed from Falmouth, Cornwall, was alleged to have had one inadequate lifeboat, no emergency beacon, a broken radio, a faulty compass, a faulty autopilot, obscured navigation lights and an invalid safety certificate.

Francis Gilbert, QC, for the prosecution at Bristol Crown Court, said four other crew had refused to serve on the trawler when it set out on February 25, 1991, to fish for scallops. There was no further contact. By March 8, when the body of the woman cook was washed up near St Austell, it was determined the ship had foundered with the loss of all hands. The following month



Alan Ayres, left, and Joseph O'Connor: breach of duty was a gross negligence, the court was told

the wreck was found on the seabed in 250ft of water, 13 miles south off Dodman Point, Cornwall. On October 4 another body was recovered by a trawler not far from the wreck. In May the next year, the remains of part of a third body were found. No other bodies were recovered. The Marine Accident Investigation

Bureau passed its findings to the Devon and Cornwall police, who had the wreck raised on September 20, 1993, and taken to Devonport Dockyard.

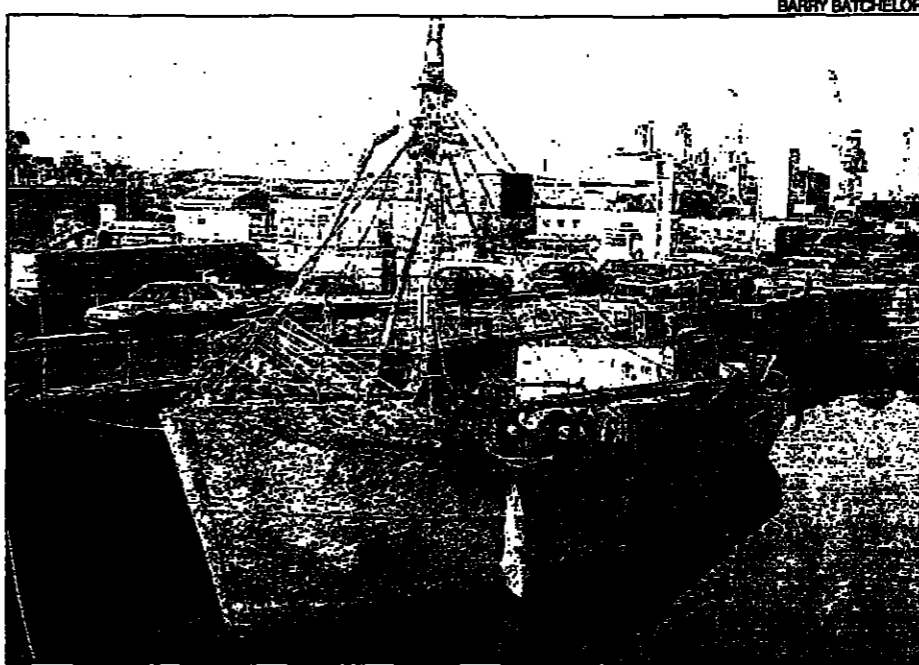
In court, Joseph O'Connor, 44, the managing agent of the company Guideday, and the managing director, Alan Ayres, 56, denied manslaughter

between February 24 and March 9, 1991. The charges allege that the two men, both from Plymouth, were in breach of a duty to the crew to take reasonable care for their safety, and that the breach of duty amounted to gross negligence, which was a substantial cause of the disaster.

Mr Gilbert said there would be evidence that the *Pescado* did not sink because of a collision with another vessel but that she capsized.

The lost crew were skipper Neil Curry, 28, from South Uist, Western Isles; cook JoAnn Thomas, 23, from Plymouth; Peter Birley, 34, of Fleetwood, Lancashire; Steven Hardy, 30, from Plymouth; Sean Kelly, 17, from Bridham, Devon; and Adrian Flynn, 21, from Lincoln.

Mr Gilbert said that, in 1990, a skipper found the *Pescado* to be unsafe, unseaworthy and dangerous. The skipper and three other men who had set out initially from Plymouth decided to leave the vessel on arrival at Falmouth.



Lost with all hands: the *Pescado*, said to have had faulty equipment

This left only Mr Curry and Mr Birley as crew. They were joined by the four others who died.

Mr Gilbert said: "These were the innocents who were on that vessel when it sailed. None of this crew had any qualifications. They were in effect novices sent to their deaths."

In the Guideday company.

Mr Ayres owned half the shares. Mr O'Connor, who provided the fishing experience, had gone bankrupt but in 1990 was in control of the vessel when it was refitted "from being barely more than being fit for scrap".

After complaints from the 1990 crew about the absence of a lifeboat, Mr O'Connor produced one from his garden. It

was lashed to the railings instead of hanging free. Regulations required two.

The vessel was only 12 minutes' flying time from the rescue helicopters of the Royal Naval Air Station Culdrose when she sank and some of the crew would have survived had statutory safety equipment been on board. The trial continues.

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES

Elephant v academic: the animal behaviourist's biggest challenge, in **Weekend**

PLUS Vision, the 7-day TV and radio guide

Captain dies in fight to save crippled vessel

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE skipper of a fishing boat died and five crew members were injured when an oil-fired stove exploded, spraying the crew with flames and fuel.

Paul Simpson, 43, from Jersey, is believed to have died when he became trapped below decks on the *Inconnu* as he struggled to control the fire and save his boat before she hit rocks at the foot of huge cliffs near the Old Man of Hoy off Orkney.

The accident happened shortly after midnight yesterday but the alarm was raised only seven hours later, when one crew member in a lifeboat was spotted by the *St Ola* car ferry. Choppy seas prevented the ferry launching her lifeboat but the captain, James Winterburn, manoeuvred his vessel alongside the raft, allowing the crewman to scramble up a ladder.

Andrew Watt, 32, suffering from cold and burns, asked the captain to search for his colleagues. A helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth and three lifeboats joined the operation.

Four other survivors were found at the bottom of the 1,00ft cliffs close to the wreckage of the *Inconnu*. They had stayed on board the 57R crabber and jumped to safety

when the boat hit the rocks. The men, suffering from burns, cuts and exposure, were admitted to hospital on Orkney but later released.

Mr Watt, 32, of Dumbeth, Highland, managed to get on deck through the engine room with other crew members.

"The heat was so fierce it lifted the skin off my hands. I had a rope attached to the lifeboat wrapped round my wrist. I was screaming for the other boys to join me, but I was dragged over the side into the water."

"With my boots and heavy socks I was being dragged under. I thought I was going to drown, but I somehow managed to pull myself on to the raft." With flames shooting into the air from the *Inconnu*, Mr Watt fired off six flares but failed to attract a ship a mile away.

"I kept two flares and waited for hour after hour for the *St Ola* to pass. That was my last chance. There was a big swell running, but they managed to put down a rope ladder."

The search for Mr Simpson was called off at lunchtime yesterday. He leaves his wife, Mary, and their two young daughters.

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THE TIMES

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Protesters Bottom over and funding

number cruncher pick up 55 year

Portillo buys British in defiance of his advisers

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE ARMY is to order its next generation of military ambulances from Land Rover after Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, ignored a recommendation to buy a rival Austrian vehicle.

The contract for 700 British-made ambulances worth nearly £40 million is expected to be announced in the Commons during an Army debate tomorrow.

Officials from the Ministry of Defence procurement executive had favoured buying the Austrian Pinzgauer ambulance, made by Steyr Daimler Puch. In trials it was said to have provided a faster and smoother ride for injured troops.

However, the Land Rover also performed well and some defence sources said both vehicles had their good points. Although the Austrian bid was more expensive — apparently by about £60 million — the company said the long-term costs would be considerably cheaper than with Land Rover. This was one of the



£40 million boost: the Land Rover plant in Solihull

claims that impressed officials when they examined the bids even though, technically, the Austrian vehicle exceeded the Army's requirements.

The Austrian company's claim of a more cost-effective "life cycle" was disputed by Land Rover, which has mounted an intensive lobbying campaign in the past few weeks to persuade Mr Portillo to buy British, warning of serious consequences for exports. Mr Portillo also faced

pressure from Tory MPs in the Midlands — where Land Rover is based — including Sir Norman Fowler, the former Tory party chairman.

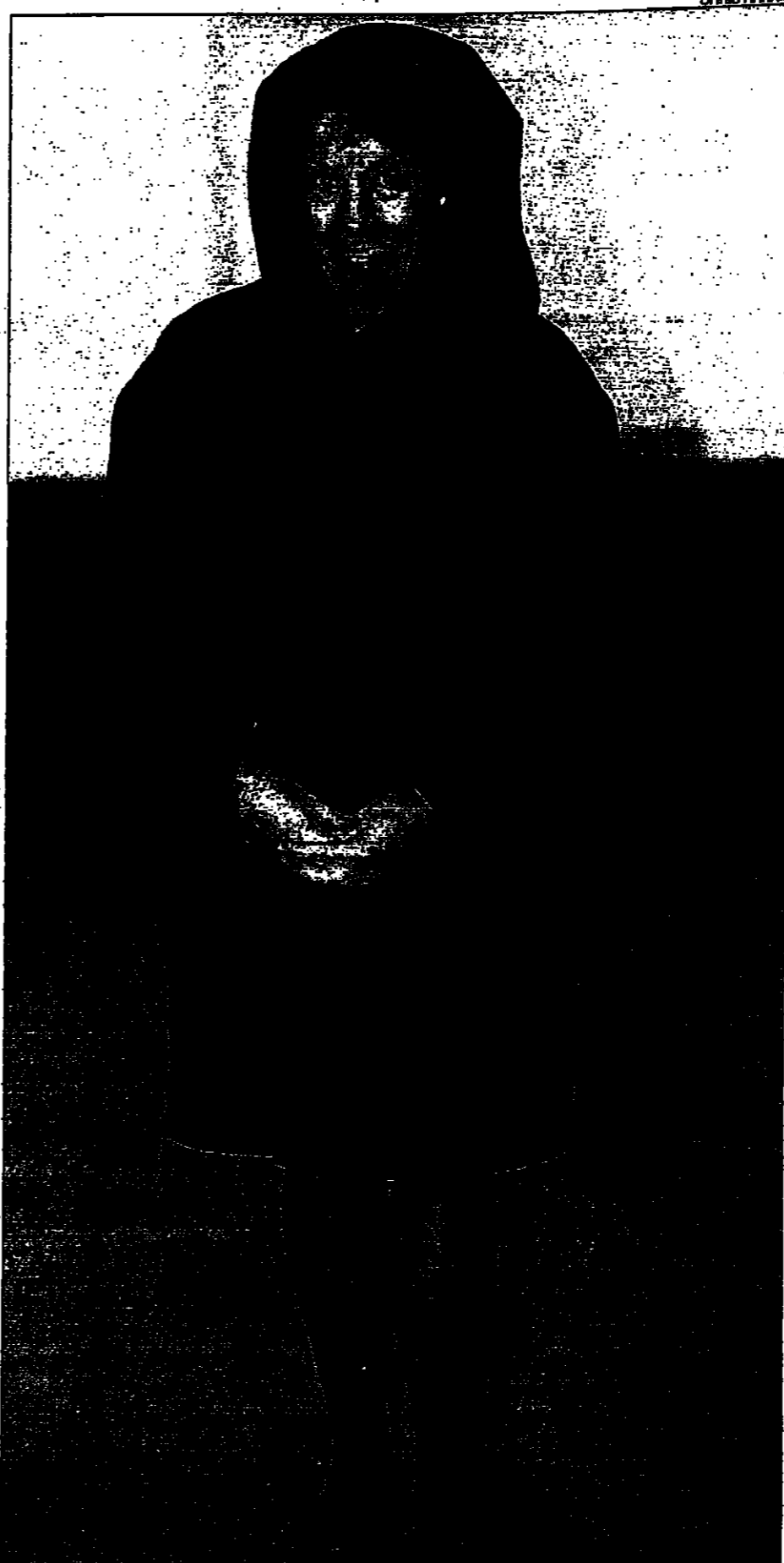
When Mr Portillo became Defence Secretary he announced an order for American Apache attack helicopters for the Army, rejecting other bids including a European helicopter involving British companies. However, he was merely approving a decision taken by his predecessor, Mal-

colm Rifkind. Mr Portillo is currently deciding whether to order a midlife refit for the RAF's Tornado F3 air defence aircraft — equipping it with new missiles — or lease American F16 fighters for the next ten years. A decision to lease F16s will guarantee political opposition from Labour MPs and some Tories.

Anticipating the announcement of a Land Rover contract, David Clark, the Shadow Defence Secretary, said: "It looks as if a bit of common sense has finally prevailed. We found it incredible that the Government could even contemplate not giving the contract to Land Rover."

The Land Rover ambulance is a derivative of the four-wheel drive Defender, which is powered by a 2.5-litre turbo diesel engine. The chassis is strengthened by specialist body sections and can carry four stretchers. The Austrian Pinzgauer has a 2.4-litre diesel engine and a complex pneumatic suspension system.

Land Rover is also expected to be awarded a £125 million contract to supply up to 8,000 light utility trucks.



Monk on murder charge attacked

The Buddhist monk who has admitted killing Johnnie Masher was attacked and abused by a 200-strong crowd when taken to re-enact the crime at a temple cave. Yodchart Sunphoo, 21, was punched in the face by the nephew of the abbot at the Thuan Kaapoon temple before police pulled their guns to drive away the crowd.

The Masher family, from Wincle, Cheshire, have been upset by pictures of her body appearing in the Thai media. The law graduate, 23, who had been on holiday, died after being pushed into a ravine. Police said yesterday that the murder investigation should be completed in two weeks.

Sickness delays Maxwell verdict

The jury in the Maxwell fraud trial was discharged for the day yesterday after a woman member became ill. Six have had chest infections during more than 47 hours of deliberations at Chichester Rents, the Old Bailey annexe. Kevin Maxwell, 36, Ian Maxwell, 39, and a former ex-Maxwell aide, Larry Trachtenberg, 42, deny conspiracy to defraud pension funds.

Five arrested

Four security guards and a rickshaw driver were arrested in connection with the murder last week of James Skinner, a British tourist, in the southern Indian state of Karnataka, the Press Trust of India said.

Body found

Police are trying to identify a decomposed body found inside a submerged Volkswagen car at Shoreham-by-Sea harbour, West Sussex. The body and car are believed to have been in the water for months.

Sex case settled

Natasha Ford, 13, from Acocks Green, Birmingham, has won £100 compensation after claiming Raza newagents sexually discriminated against her by refusing to give her a paperboy's round.

Sheep cleared

More than 30,000 sheep on 20 farms in Snowdonia have been released from "movement and slaughter" restrictions imposed after the 1986 Chernobyl disaster. However, 220,000 are still affected.

Smashing sleep

A pensioner slept as a car went out of control and smashed into the roof of her house. Doris Allen, 74, of Stubbington, Hampshire, was woken by police after the accident. No one in the car was badly hurt.

Weedkiller linked to frogs' decline

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

SCIENTISTS have established a link between the falling number of frogs and one of the world's biggest-selling weedkillers. Tests indicate that paraquat, used in gardens and on farms, can deform and kill tadpoles after becoming concentrated in certain pond weed.

All over the world frogs appear to be in decline and researchers are linking the fall with a number of possible factors, including rising temperatures, the thinning of the ozone layer and pollution. The findings indicate that weedkillers, which reach ponds from airborne sprays or from land near by, might play a role in the decline.

Scientists are calling for more research to screen the possible impact of a range of herbicides and how they interact with freshwater plants.

The research on paraquat was carried out at the University of Indiana, using the Rio Grande leopard frog.

English Nature, the Government's wildlife adviser, is holding a conference this month at Kew Gardens to promote the importance of garden design for the benefit of amphibians. Mary Gibson, a freshwater expert with the organisation, said yesterday that the findings could have important implications for households with garden ponds.

Zeneca Agrochemicals, a big manufacturer of paraquat, said it believed the weedkiller was safe but it would study the findings. Farmers are told to spray pesticides more than six metres from a water course but paraquat is exempt from this rule.

Solicitors 'fail to heed complaints'

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

MOST people who complain about solicitors are highly dissatisfied with the way the profession handles their complaint, according to a survey published by the Law Society today.

It shows that of a sample of 2,246 complainants to the Solicitors' Complaints Bureau, 67 per cent were unhappy with the outcome. Almost half thought the bureau, whose future is under scrutiny, was "heavily influenced in favour of solicitors and the legal profession" and believed that complaints were not investigated properly.

People who were told by the bureau that they did not have a valid complaint, or that their case was closed and that the bureau could not take the matter any further, were particularly dissatisfied. The survey by the Law Society's

research and policy planning unit is the most comprehensive to date on the handling of complaints.

Most complaints in the survey were over conveyancing and divorce or family work, although there was also a significant proportion generated by personal injury cases. The most common complaints were excessive delay (more than 50 per cent), failure to respond to telephone calls or letters and failure to follow instructions.

The next largest category was excessive charges, with almost a third complaining, compared with 6 per cent of respondents in a survey in 1990. The bureau, based in Leamington, costs the profession in England and Wales £3 million a year and has been criticised by solicitors for being costly and interfering.

Shepherd gives Muslim pledge

Shia Sheikh... board and removed... attached to the Al-Sadiq and Al-Hadid schools in Kilburn, north-west London. The Education Secretary met some of the 300 pupils, who follow the national curriculum and receive Muslim instruction. The Shia schools, which opened in 1991, will have their first GCSE candidates this year. The minister promised to consider fresh applications from Muslim schools to join the state system.



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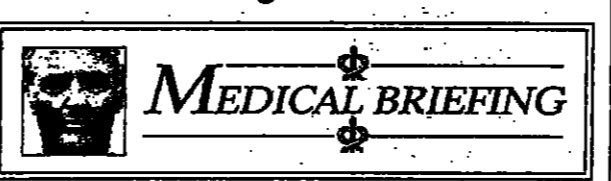
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Silent invader kills by stealth



A CAMPAIGN to alert the public to the dangers of carbon monoxide, a silent and odourless killer, is concentrating on warning householders of the need to keep gas fires and other slow combustion heaters in good repair and to maintain ventilation in living rooms.

The public already understands that in some rented accommodation new tenants need to cast a critical eye over any gas appliances. Also heaters in holiday accommodation abroad must be treated with care and a through draught maintained.

Carbon monoxide is formed when there is incomplete combustion of carbon fuel. Although North Sea gas is not in itself poisonous, it will give out carbon monoxide if any undetected fault in the gas appliance results in its incomplete burning.

Some solid fuel burners, if they have blocked flues, if the range leaks, or if there is poor ventilation in the room, can equally well kill somebody who is huddled over them for warmth. I have always regarded the kitchen range in my Norfolk cottage with some suspicion since I was told that one day, when the doors and windows to the kitchen had been shut, the previous tenant's Labrador had been found unconscious beside it.

The sources of carbon monoxide are legion — poisoning from car exhausts has replaced that provided by gas

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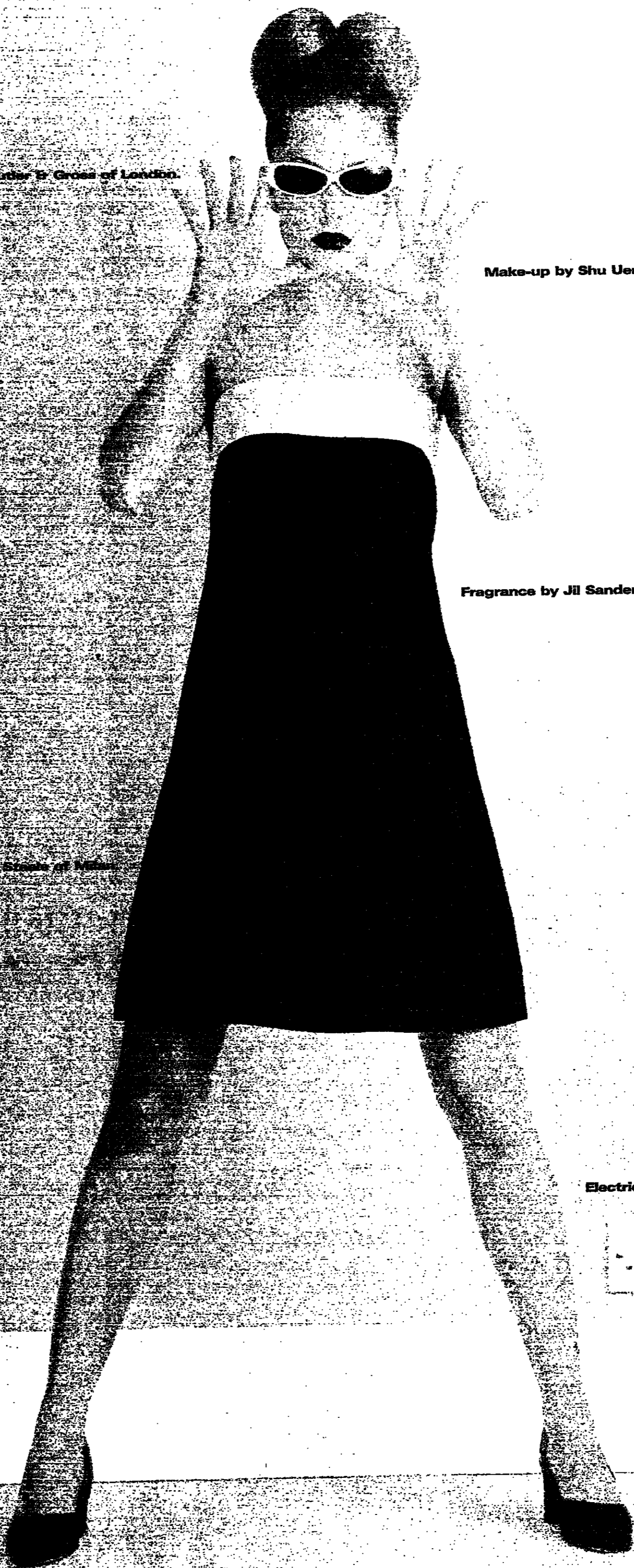
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*A comparison of similar accounts from major High Street Banks on 6th January 1996. The interest rates quoted are gross (ie the rate before deduction of tax) and correct as of date of going to press, but may vary. Interest is calculated daily and paid half yearly. Co-operative Bank plc, registered address, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester M40 6BQ.

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Campaign teams attack each other as contest for 2000 exhibition turns into slanging match

Millennium rivals bicker over tales of two cities

By ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A BATTLE to host the Millennium Exhibition in 2000 has degenerated into a slanging match. Supporters of an application from Greenwich have accused rivals at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham of starting a whispering campaign in the media and of spreading "horror stories" alleging there is toxic waste and pollution on the south London site.

The Greenwich Millennium Trust has counter-claimed that the NEC application wrongly includes more than £50 million from Birmingham City Council, which part-owns the NEC. A spokesman for the trust said: "The Millennium is paid from the public purse so, if council tax money is used in Birmingham, people from that city would be paying twice."

John Cole, marketing director of the NEC, accused Greenwich supporters of trying to whip up controversy to



Scott front man in fight for Greenwich

benefit their own bid: "They are clearly getting edgy."

The Millennium Commission meets today to discuss which of the two cities is the most deserving of a £100 million National Lottery grant to get the year-long exhibition, which will emulate the Great Exhibition of 1851 and the Festival of Britain in 1951. The

winner is expected to be announced this month. The event is forecast to attract more than 15 million people, create thousands of jobs and bring at least £500 million of capital investment.

Greenwich claims historic and romantic advantages over Birmingham. American television companies planning millennium broadcasts have for the past year been trying to book the buildings that used to house the Royal Observatory. Andrew Parry, project co-ordinator, says: "The question of the best place should be decided on which will have the most national and international resonance with visitors." A key point in the Greenwich plan will be the introduction of a river bus to transport visitors along the Thames. The site will also benefit from the new Jubilee Line extension to the Underground.

Birmingham claims better transport infrastructure and an experienced site. The NEC is co-owned by Birmingham City Council and Birmingham

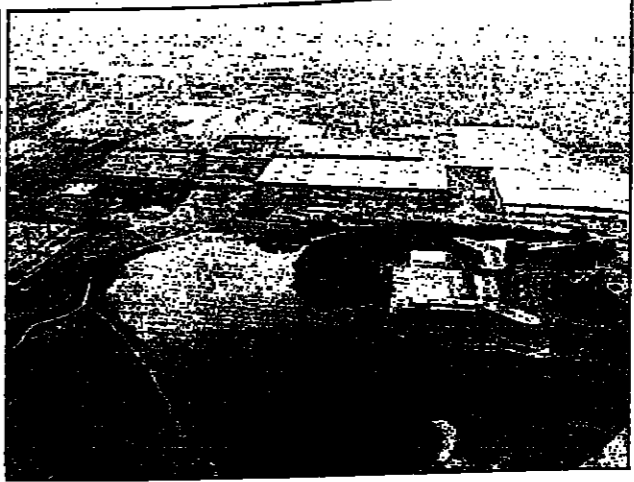
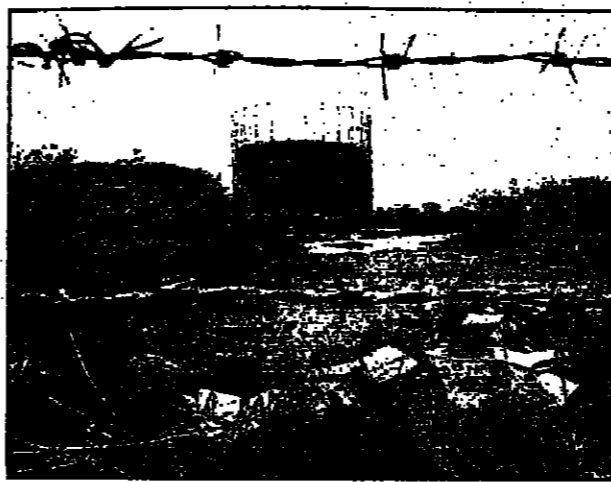
Chamber of Commerce. John Cole, marketing director for the NEC, said: "There is a strong feeling that the event is about changing cultures and welcoming in the new. To make the commitment to holding the Millennium Exhibition outside London would be a very significant symbol."

Each site is being backed by a commercial exhibition organiser, each sworn to silence about the precise details.

As a front man, Greenwich has employed Sir Bob Scott, leader of Manchester's two failed Olympic Games bids and a successful bid for England to host the 2002 Commonwealth Games.

The NEC, the ninth biggest exhibition centre in Europe, claims the support of Britain's business leaders. According to an NOP poll for the centre, 60 per cent of marketing directors from the Times Top 100 companies believe the NEC would be ideal.

Leading article, page 17



□ Aim: to provide historic backdrop to celebrations, regenerate the Thames as a working river and revive Docklands commercially.

□ Sales pitch: traditional centre of world time.

□ Strengths: historic setting with landmarks such as Royal Naval College, National Maritime Museum and Cutty Sark.

□ Weaknesses: site earmarked, formerly a gasworks (above), is not near historic centre. London has already received lion's share of lottery cash, with large grants to Royal Opera House and others.

□ What Greenwich says

about NEC: accused Birmingham of "dirty tricks" after media was told that gasworks site, polluted by toxins, was unlikely to be cleaned in time for 2000.

□ Who will run exhibition? Favourite is M2000, a consortium including MAI, Bovis Construction, Stanhope and Harvey Goldsmith's Allied Entertainment.

□ Who is backing it? Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister, has championed the regeneration of Docklands but cannot make public his views because he is a member of the Millennium Commission.

□ Aim: to create an exhibition centre of global importance, big enough to host the world's largest trade fairs.

□ Sales pitch: The National Exhibition Centre (NEC) has a greenfield site and is more likely to be ready in time. The NEC has vast experience of hosting important shows.

□ Strengths: situated at the heart of the country, more than 30 million people living less than two hours away.

□ Weaknesses: Birmingham has yet to establish itself as an independent tourist attraction.

□ What the NEC says about Greenwich: to be built on

poisoned land. Terrible road, rail and air access. Nowhere to park coaches.

□ Who will run the exhibition at the NEC? The favoured operator is Imagination plc, which describes itself as a "multi-disciplinary communications consultancy". Clients include Lego and Walt Disney.

□ Who is backing it? Sir Norman Fowler, MP for Sutton Coldfield, and chairman of The Birmingham Post, and Sir Adrian Cadbury, a member of the Birmingham chocolate dynasty and a non-executive director of the NEC.

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Mormons ejected for fighting good fight

By A STAFF REPORTER

TWO Mormon missionaries have been moved on by their Church after their Bible-bashing got out of hand. When the men tried to convert Tom and Bernie Casey, who are both lay preachers at their local parish church, a heated religious debate turned into a scuffle.

Mrs Casey claims she was left with a split lip and suffered abusive language. The Mormon Church said last night that two missionaries, aged 20 and 19, had been moved from the area as a result.

Mrs Casey, of Clayton, near Preston, Lancashire, said: "It was quite a strong discussion with them getting their books out to try and prove their points. The duo became loud-mouthed and offensive when we refused to accept some of the tenets of their faith. We questioned some beliefs they hold and that is when the scuffle broke out."

A spokesman for the Mormon Church in Lancashire said: "These missionaries have not shown the high standards we demand of them. We apologise for what happened. Our missionaries, however, claim they only defended themselves."

Posters for alcoholic lemonade criticised

By A STAFF REPORTER

A POSTER campaign for the alcoholic lemonade Hooper's Hooch was criticised yesterday as likely to appeal to under-age drinkers.

Four members of the public and Nigel Griffiths, the Labour consumer affairs spokesman, had complained to the Advertising Standards Authority over the posters. One advertisement featured a grinning lemon character holding a bottle of Hooper's Hooch inside a warning triangle with the headline: "Warning, Extreme Refreshment Alc 4.7%." Others featured the headline: "Warning, One Taste And You're Hooched."

The makers of Hooch, Bass Brewers, had told the authority that the advertisements were designed for 18 to 35-year-olds and would not promote under-age drinking. But in upholding the complaints, the authority said it considered that "the lemon character was likely to appeal to people under 18 in a way that would encourage them to drink alcohol."

Mr Griffiths hailed the ruling and said that other drinks, such as Love Byte and Ravens, infringed advertising guidelines by appealing to children.

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And you could go to Michael Tippett's 1955 masterpiece, *The Midsummer Marriage*, conducted by David Syrus on January 27, and by Bernard Haitink on February 8.

A full list of participating theatres appeared in *The Times* on Saturday and Monday, as well as the first two tokens. Collect five tokens and telephone the booking office after Thursday, January 18, stating you are using *The Times* ticket token offer. Tickets will not be issued until the tokens are presented. At theatres marked with an * you can go to more than one show, buying one full price ticket and getting another for 30p.

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سكوا من الاميل

Blair must clear the fog surrounding his stakeholder economy

Suddenly, all politicians are talking about the stakeholder economy. No matter that barely anyone but a few economists and think-tank researchers had even heard of the idea ten days ago.

One Week On. What next, a television retrospective? Mr Blair has at least succeeded in setting the agenda. But is stakeholding in danger of rebounding on Labour?

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

The Tories have made two somewhat contradictory charges, that Mr Blair does not know what he meant and that Labour wants new powers for trade unions, pressure groups and local authorities.

holding means passing social costs on from government to companies, via backdoor taxes such as the minimum wage, the social chapter and the training levy.

Will Hutton, David Marquand and the like that stakeholding involves big changes in company law and in the statutory responsibilities of directors to shareholders.

economy is not about a return to the 1970s. But he naturally believes that the unions should have a greater role and influence in representing employees and in working alongside business.

the unions would no longer have to stand in the street, as they have for the past 17 years. They would be inside the door, but probably sit around the table at the same time as business.

PETER RIDDELL

Cook hails radio finance decision as a Labour victory

Rifkind calms Tory fears over World Service cuts

By James Landale, Political Reporter

The Government moved to head off a backbench rebellion over cuts in the BBC World Service budget last night by announcing a new financing deal to minimise any potential damage to the service.

effect, extra funds intended for capital projects could instead be used for the operating budget, which is facing the bulk of the cuts.

democratic values of truthful reporting, independent comment - the features on which an open society must be based.

of private finance threatened the BBC's reputation for independence. "Privatisation can go too far just as much as government ownership can go too far."



Major is warned of fisheries revolt

By Alice Thomson

THE former whipless Tory rebels called on John Major to pull out of the Common Fisheries Policy yesterday or face further humiliation and revivals from the Euro-sceptics.

MPs back protest at factory closure

By Jill Sherman

HUNDREDS of MPs have mounted a protest at the closure of a profitable factory in Cumbria with the loss of many jobs.

Labour seeks to 'protect' sports on ITV and BBC

By Alice Thomson, Political Reporter

LABOUR demanded a change to the new Broadcasting Bill yesterday to ensure that major national sports events will be protected for viewing on ITV and the BBC.

favourably on an amendment. Labour wants a government promise to defend the present list of eight partially protected sporting events: the Olympics, the World Cup, Test matches, Wimbledon, the Derby, the FA Cup final and Scottish FA Cup final.

made it clear that it was ready to offer more than £1 billion to secure the exclusive European rights for the Olympic Games between 2000 and 2008.

Restrictions face strong opposition

By John Goodbody, Sports News Correspondent

SPORTS bodies will oppose any parliamentary moves to restrict satellite television showing of domestic or international events.

development officers into schools. How are we going to fund this without the money from television?

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US warning

India told nuclear test would bring cuts in aid

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON AND CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN BOMBAY

AMERICA, detecting signs that India may be preparing to conduct a nuclear test, has warned Delhi that economic benefits from the United States will be frozen if any such explosion takes place. The private message, delivered by officials including Frank Wisner, the American Ambassador, came after American intelligence reported that India may be moving closer to a test.

The prospect of economic exclusion appeared to make little difference last night when India announced that it would deploy the medium-range Prithvi missile, a weapon Western experts fear could be used to carry nuclear warheads against Pakistan. A proposed test firing of the surface-to-surface missile was postponed in the eastern state of Orissa yesterday, but was to be rescheduled.

In the first use of a little-known American statute, the Glenn Amendment, America emphasised to the Narasimha Rao Government its requirement to cut off all economic aid, military aid, credits, bank loans and export licences. The legislation applies to any country testing a nuclear weapon except the four other nuclear powers: Britain, France, Russia and China.

Most important for India, the law also dictates that the United States must oppose World Bank loans and other international means of lending to the offending country. The loss of such benefits would cost Delhi billions.

It borrows about \$2 billion (£1.3 billion) a year from the World Bank and receives \$173 million annually in economic aid from Washington. The curb on export licences means, in theory, India would be unable to buy even a

computer from America. India, the third largest recipient of World Bank loans after China and Mexico, could easily face pariah status. America, as the leading shareholder in the international organisation, has the greatest number of votes in the board's approval of foreign loans and would certainly be supported in its banishment of India by Japan and Germany, the bank's second and third leading shareholders, which oppose nuclear testing.

Last year, Mr Rao suspended a test launch of the Prithvi before visiting the United States, on the basis that it would have sent mixed signals to Washington. But he has been under pressure from the main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party to take a more muscular approach before elections planned for April.

India has complained that American policy favours the nuclear powers and discriminates against others. Mr Rao has argued that the five should dismantle their nuclear arsenals before any worldwide test ban is agreed.

India denies that it is planning a nuclear test and says the United States misread satellite photographs of troop movements. The Government is adamant that it will not give up the nuclear option, primarily because of the perceived nuclear threat from Pakistan.

While the fighting continued, the Russian and Chechen propaganda machines waged a battle to win the ear of the media. Independent information about events in Pervomaiskoye has been scarce because reporters have been prevented from getting close to the village. For the media, this has



Russian soldiers fire their heavy artillery at the village of Pervomaiskoye during the second day of intense fighting against Chechen rebels

Battle of blood and propaganda

FROM CARLOTTA GALL OUTSIDE PERVOMAISKOYE, THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW, AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

FIGHTING carried on into a second day over the village of Pervomaiskoye yesterday, although President Yeltsin had promised the Russian assault would be over by Monday night.

Field-guns rained shells on the houses, where about 200 fighters and about 100 hostages were said to be sheltering. With each charge the gunners, one of whom worked bare-chested in the bitter cold, turned away with their fingers in their ears. The attack looked more like a classical military assault than an operation to free hostages. The Russian authorities said that 29 of an estimated 116 hostages in the village had been freed and that 100 Chechen fighters had been killed. They put their own losses at six dead. Those figures could not be confirmed. The longer the fight continues, the more embarrassing it promises to be for President Yeltsin.

The commandos were hampered by thick cloud cover, which prevented helicopter gunships from flying so many raids on Monday. The rebels kept up their fierce resistance with

heavy machineguns and mortars. Returning Russian soldiers said they had been fighting house to house inside the village.

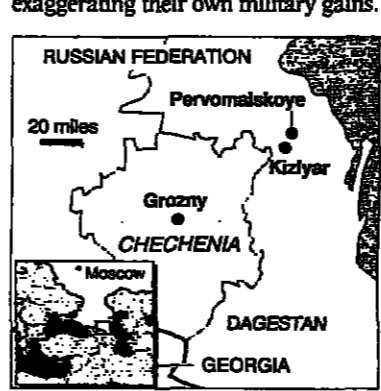
"Their defences are extremely well organised," Major General Aleksandr Mikhailov, the Russian intelligence spokesman, said. "They have dug deep trenches that connect to the houses," he said, adding that there were many snipers.

Hostages who had somehow escaped from the maelstrom had spent the night caked in mud without heat in a concrete building in the nearby village of Sovetskoye. As they came out to a water pump in the yard, guards, who clearly had instructions not to let hostages speak to reporters, pushed journalists away.

While the fighting continued, the Russian and Chechen propaganda machines waged a battle to win the ear of the media. Independent information about events in Pervomaiskoye has been scarce because reporters have been prevented from getting close to the village. For the media, this has

meant a difficult task sifting through a barrage of propaganda to find the truth.

Many reporters have been wary about official reports from Chechnya since the end of 1994, when Moscow denied for days it had anything to do with air raids on the rebel region. For their part, the Chechen separatists have a record of inflating casualty figures inflicted on the Russians and of exaggerating their own military gains.



The result is that more than 30 hours after the Russians began their assault, it was hard to shed light on what was going on in the village.

On Monday, Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) said the attack started after the "Lone Wolf" group led by Salman Raduyev had killed a group of elders from the region of Dagestan who came to negotiate. The FSB said the rebels also killed six policemen they held hostage, hanging two of them, while President Yeltsin said the gunmen had received an order from separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev to start shooting their hostages.

Raduyev swore his fighters had killed nobody. By yesterday afternoon there was no confirmation about the massacre of the elders and a policeman hostage who was freed said none of his colleagues had been killed. Casualty figures given by both sides have differed greatly. Russia says it has killed a total of 250 Chechens with the loss of six servicemen, while Chechnya claims Russia has lost more than 100 and just eight of its own men.

First Lady ready to face her Congress accusers

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

HILLARY CLINTON said yesterday that she would consider giving evidence voluntarily to congressional investigators if that would end the controversy that has been swirling around her for the past two weeks.

Such an appearance by a First Lady would be unprecedented and as painful as "having your teeth drilled", Mrs Clinton said. "If that is the kind of co-operation that is needed to end this matter, I am more than willing to do whatever it takes," she added.

Were Mrs Clinton to press her offer it would put her Republican enemies on the spot. She is a brilliant public performer who would be very hard to pin down and if they questioned her too aggressively, they could face a public backlash.

Yesterday Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater special prosecutor, summoned Carolyn Huber, a White House aide, in front of a grand jury to explain her mysterious discovery on January 4 of records detailing Mrs Clinton's legal work for Madison Guaranty, the bank at the heart of the Whitewater affair. Mr Starr had subpoenaed those records two years ago.

The Senate Whitewater committee meanwhile was aggressively questioning three past or present White House lawyers about a meeting on Whitewater they attended in November 1993.

One of the lawyers, William Kennedy, took notes which the committee obtained last month after threatening to take President Clinton to court. Republicans claimed an ambiguous law reading "Vacuum Rose law files" showed the White House sought to remove or destroy evidence of Mrs Clinton's connections with Madison, but Mr Kennedy vigorously contested that charge.

The Senate Whitewater committee has decided to continue its investigations beyond its February 29 deadline, meaning they will last well into the presidential election campaign.

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COMPANIES HOUSE

Afrikaners bicker as apartheid party seeks fresh image

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

AS THE Afrikaner community battles to find its feet in South Africa's new political order, signs of strain are evident. The weekend launch of a pressure group that intends to unite Afrikaners could not have been more inauspicious. The rally was marred by scuffles after a group of right-wingers tried to set fire to the country's flag.

Backed by the former police commissioner, Johan van der Merwe, the Foundation for Equality Before the Law was formed in response to the arrest and pending prosecution of Magnus Malan, a former Defence Minister, and other apartheid-era security chiefs. It aims to fight for the restoration of their language and culture. Of particular concern is the marginalising of Afrikaners.

There is also frustration at the former ruling National Party's inability to influence African National Congress decisions and to protect Afrikaner interests. The nationalists are in disarray over how best to adapt. This was illustrated by the rumpus surrounding an Afrikaans Sunday newspaper report, which said that the party was about to dissolve.

Rapport disclosed a document that proposed disbanding the party, replacing it with a Christian Democratic Alliance that would seek others opposed to the ANC.

Hours after F. W. de Klerk, the National Party leader and Second Deputy President, lambasted the report, he confirmed the thrust of the document, saying his party was initiating a discussion on political realignment that could see the party name and flag disappear.

The party is in a tricky position. It is trying to maintain its Afrikaner support base while reaching out to black communities. "The National Party is trapped by its apartheid past and it carries too much political baggage to be a viable political force," said Professor David Welsh, of the University of Cape Town. "You must put yourself in a new position to do that. That means a black leader."

Secret files: General Constand Viljoen, who commanded forces against Cuban and East German-led troops in Angola in the 1980s and now heads a right-wing party, has asked for secret files kept on him by East Germany's secret service. (Reuters)

Leading article, page 17

Election pledge by new leader after Sierra Leone coup

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE head of the military Government in Sierra Leone, Captain Valentine Strasser, has been overthrown in a coup a month before scheduled elections to return the country to democracy. Captain Julius Maada Bio, his deputy, who has assumed power, has promised to stick to the election timetable.

State radio said that Captain Strasser, who was the youngest ruler in the world when he gained power in 1992 at the age of 26, had fled the country. The announcement was made by Lieutenant-Colonel Karifa Kargbo, the director of defence information.

Strasser: accused of trying to keep power

The organisation accused Captain Strasser, the head of the National Provincial Ruling Council, of trying to force it to pass decrees allowing him to stay in power. However, aides close to Mr Bio, 33, said he opposed holding an election while the civil war was going on. Under election law, Captain Strasser, 30, was still too young to be a candidate.

Britain yesterday expressed hopes that the elections would be held on time. Sierra Leone, one of three West African Commonwealth countries under military government, was criticised at the Commonwealth summit last year for its lack of democracy, but there were hopes that the impending vote, after four years of military rule, would bring the country greater stability.

The country, one of the world's ten poorest, has been increasingly tormented since 1991 by an uprising in the rural areas, spearheaded by dissident troops who have returned from peacekeeping operations in Liberia.

Last year they launched a series of attacks on Western-owned mines in the south-east and held a number of Europeans and Britons hostage. An estimated 10,000 people have been killed in the fighting.

Study blames gay urge on big brother

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

HOMOSEXUALITY is more common among men who have older brothers, according to an American study. The reason may be biological or it may simply be that the treatment meted out to younger siblings in childhood influences their sexual orientation.

In a study of more than 600 middle-aged men, of whom half were gay, the rate of homosexuality rose with each additional older brother. In the sample, the rate of homosexuality among men who do not have older brothers fell to 45 per cent. For those who have one older brother it rose to 53 per cent, and 64 per cent for men who have two. Five of the seven men in the sample group who have four or more older brothers were homosexual. The older brothers need not be alive, but people with half-brothers were not included in the test.

The report, published in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*, was based on research by Ray Blanchard, the head of clinical sexuality at the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry in Toronto. Mr Blanchard offered yesterday a biological explanation. "The fetus has no idea of its birth order," he said. "But the mother's body may be able to tell how many sons she has carried." He suggested that the mother's immune system somehow reacted in a way that altered the focuses of later sons.

Mr Blanchard added that "there will no doubt be socio-biological theories that nature wants to cut down the competition for mates".

Colleagues at academic conferences had also suggested that the survey results may indicate an effect of the normal big brother-little brother relationships, or the way that parents subconsciously react to sons, or even of early sex games between children. "These kinds of explanations are really little more than people fishing around for an alternative to the biological reason," Mr Blanchard said.

Previous studies have claimed to prove that gay men tend to be older siblings, but Mr Blanchard's work is thought to be the first to concentrate solely on brothers.

Bush reject to hunt

Britons Saddam

Peking b slander

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Bush and Major rejected chance to humiliate Iraq

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A FORMAL surrender of Iraqi forces after the success of the United States-led coalition campaign in 1991 was ruled out by former President Bush and John Major because they agreed it would be wrong to humiliate the Iraqi people.

The political decision, taken after a telephone call between Mr Bush and Mr Major as the coalition ground forces overran all Iraqi opposition, led a few days later to the low-key ceasefire in a tent at Safwan Air Base in southern Iraq.

The "ad hoc" ceasefire, attended by two senior Iraqi generals but no representative from the Baath ruling party, has been strongly criticised by Baroness Thatcher and other political figures — five years

New York: Iraq was reported ready to discuss the Security Council's resolution allowing limited oil sales in exchange for humanitarian goods, non-aligned diplomats said. Iraq has been crippled by sanctions since it invaded Kuwait in 1990. (Reuter)

after the Gulf War began — as one of the key elements that helped Saddam Hussein to survive as Iraq's President.

According to senior American diplomatic sources, Mr Bush, with the agreement of Mr Major, was opposed to the word "surrender" appearing in any formal ceremony because there was the expectation that the Iraqi people would rise up against their

leader within a matter of months after the defeat. "They did not want to humiliate the very people whom they were counting on to remove Saddam from power after the Iraqi defeat," a source said.

It was also felt that Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states would not support the demand for a formal surrender.

In all the talks between Washington and London, before and during the campaign, nobody considered how a ceasefire ceremony should be held or who should attend it, so as to underline to the Arab world in particular that Saddam had been defeated.

Leading up to the air campaign on the night of January 16 and 17, 1991, four key officials from London travelled frequently to Washington to agree on the political objectives of the war. One of the key issues discussed there was whether the forces should march on to Baghdad. The team from London made clear the British Government was opposed to the idea.

Yesterday General Norman Schwarzkopf, the American commander of the coalition forces in the Gulf, said there was "never, ever" a plan to go to Baghdad. He was speaking on BBC Radio in response to Mr Bush's admission on US television that he "miscalculated" Saddam's staying power at the end of the war.

The lack of any contingency planning for a formal ceasefire ceremony was underlined when General Schwarzkopf was given just 48 hours to make the arrangements. Safwan was selected as the most convenient site and two Iraqi generals arrived at the tent to agree the ceasefire.

General Schwarzkopf said yesterday that arranging a formal and symbolic surrender might have helped to remove Saddam from power but the Arab mentality made such a thing very unlikely. "Unless we had had President Bush and John Major at that table, I do not think we ever would have got Saddam to sit at that table. It just would not have happened," he said.

Letters, page 17

'Britons trained Saddam guards'

By OLIVER AUGUST

FIVE retired SAS sergeants went to Iraq in 1978 to teach President Saddam Hussein's bodyguards how to protect him against sophisticated assassination attempts, according to a writer.

Martin Arostegui, who interviewed one of the SAS men, said that the British team showed Saddam's bodyguards how to eliminate would-be assassins in crowded streets without killing dozens of bystanders. They were trained in "killing villages" where dummy assassins are suddenly inflated along an assault course.

The difficulty in trying to capture Saddam during the Gulf War because of this training has been acknowledged by George Bush, the former American President.

In an interview to be shown on American television next week, Mr Bush said: "Next we would be, downtown Baghdad, America occupying an Arab land, searching for this brutal dictator who had

the best security in the world, involved in an urban guerrilla war."

On the SAS men's advice, Saddam redesigned the flow of traffic in Baghdad to improve his security. Streets along which he travelled regularly had central dividing walls removed to allow his car to make a U-turn in the event of an ambush.

Mr Arostegui, who is the author of *Twilight Warriors*, a history of special forces, said: "They needed to be schooled in the basics to effectively protect their man when he came out among his people."

American special forces in the Gulf also told Mr Arostegui that Abu Abbas, one of the world's most wanted terrorists, was part of Saddam's force in Kuwait and escaped capture by them at the end of the Gulf War. US Navy Seals were tipped off by the Kuwaiti resistance and tried to find Abu Abbas among the fleeing Iraqi Army, but failed to catch him.



Set at infinity: galaxies and stars four billion times dimmer than can be observed with the naked eye, are pictured by the Hubble telescope

Hubble discovers a galaxy of galaxies

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

HUNDREDS of galaxies, some dating back to the universe's infancy, have been detected by the Hubble space telescope.

Aimed at an empty piece of sky in the direction of the Plough and instructed to gather light continuously for ten days over Christmas, the telescope has revealed stars and galaxies four billion times dimmer than those that can be seen with the naked eye.

Besides the classical spiral and elliptical galaxies, a bewildering array of different shapes and colours have been seen. At least 1,500 galaxies at various stages of

evolution appear in the pictures, astronomers from the Space Telescope Science Institute have told the American Astronomical Society meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

"We are clearly seeing some of the galaxies as they were more than ten billion years ago, in the process of formation," said Dr Robert Williams, director of the institute. "In archaeological terms it is equivalent to finding a royal city, but we don't have the dates yet. We don't know if we are seeing the most distant objects or not."

The target at which the telescope's deep field camera was pointed was very small — "about the size of a large

grain of sand held at arm's length," said Dr Williams. To a ground-based telescope, the area is based on an empty piece of sky. In the ten days from December 18 to 28, astronomers took 342 frames, 276 of which have been processed into a single image of deep space.

Though the area photographed is small, it is believed to be representative of a typical distribution of galaxies in space because the universe, statistically, looks the same in all directions. Separate images were taken in blue, red and infra-red light and combined to produce a "true-colour" view.

From the colours of the galaxies in the image, astronomers should be able to infer

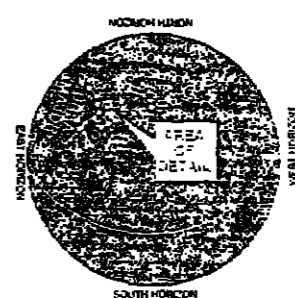
the age, distance, and composition of the galaxies. Bluer objects either contain young stars or are closer, while redder objects contain older stars, or are further away.

The image was compared with a core sample of the Earth, which would contain many layers of material laid

down over millions of years. In the Hubble image, stars and galaxies are seen ranging further and further into the universe and more and more distant in time. Some could be galaxies formed within a billion years of the Big Bang, but Dr Williams said it would take detailed analysis to be sure.

"It's like looking down a long tube and seeing all these galaxies along the line of sight," said Dr Mark Dickinson, a member of the team. "The past 10 days have been an unbelievable experience."

A key question the study may answer is how galaxies form. Astronomers do not understand how billions of stars in each galaxy come together to form a cluster.



Peking bars media from selling 'slanderous' economic reports

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

CHINA ruled yesterday that foreign news organisations' economic reporting must be regulated by the Communist Party's Xinhua news agency.

A Cabinet edict, citing national security, threatened punishment for news organisations with permission to sell economic information within China whose information "slanders" China or harms its national interests. It forbids Chinese customers from buying economic information from foreign organisations and allows Xinhua to determine subscription rates.

The crackdown triggered alarm bells in Hong Kong,

whose economy is heavily dependent on the free flow of information.

The proclamation says the regulations are intended to "safeguard the nation's sovereignty, protect the legal rights and interests of domestic users of economic information and promote the healthy development of our country's economic information industry."

Xinhua is empowered to "manage" foreign news agencies which must register within three months. There are two reasons for the newest regulations on foreign media operating inside China, which are tightly monitored. The first is

political. Peking has been anxious about foreign news penetrating China and from time to time jams electronic media or ejects particular journalists.

Overseas journalists must register with the Foreign Ministry, which assigns them their staff, including their maids, all of whom have security training. The journalists are forbidden to visit most other parts of China without official permission and if that is given, an official "minder" is usually assigned to the trip as well.

Equally political is the regime's dislike of news that conflicts with the official ver-

sion which is usually "good", while the foreign output may be pessimistic or at least balanced. Foreign journalists often obtain information which conflicts with the orthodox stories and when that is published abroad it is frequently relayed back into China via the BBC and the Voice of America.

There is an economic reason as well for the ban: Chinese official sources sell news to domestic customers. These are increasingly more willing to obtain foreign information which in China is almost always believed to be more accurate.

Woman spared fatal injection

FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON

BORN on her grandmother's kitchen table to parents who soon would abandon her to a childhood of sexual abuse and alcoholism, Guinevere Garcia was perhaps destined for an infamous end.

That was to have come today when the 37-year-old faced a lethal concoction of drugs at Statesville Correctional Centre near Joliet to become the first woman executed in Illinois since 1938 and only the second in America since capital punishment was restored in 1976.

But Jim Edgar, the Governor of Illinois who has sent killers such as John Wayne Gacy to their deaths, took pity on Garcia yesterday after receiving hundreds of requests for clemency, including a high-profile demand from Bianca Jagger in her capacity as an Amnesty International official.

"The fact that Guinevere Garcia is a woman has not influenced my decision... She should never be free again," Mr Edgar said in a statement, "but I have concluded that the punishment decreed for her was not typical. Horrible as was her crime, it is an offence



Garcia: wanted to be executed for killing

comparable to those that the judges and jurors have determined over and over again should not be punishable by death.

The decision will have left the prisoner furious as she sat on Death Row at Dwight Women's State Prison in Chicago yesterday. Garcia, a teenage mother and prostitute who shot dead her husband, George, in 1991, had pleaded to be killed by state authorities.

Her lawyer had contended that the shooting had taken place while Mr Garcia was beating his wife.

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'Charles's success at Gordonstoun came as a surprise to his parents'

Elizabeth's story



Today we continue our exclusive serialisation of Elizabeth, revealing how the Queen's devotion to duty left its mark on Charles... plus a look at the man whose job is tightening the royal purse-strings



TOMORROW

The Queen as a mother-in-law, and how she is attempting to deal with the many and complex marriage problems in her turbulent family

'You called me darling!' said Charles, amazed

ELIZABETH AND CHARLES

It is terrible for any parent to be accused publicly of being a bad mother or father. Elizabeth had done her best in a difficult situation... to be a mother and a head of state, head of the Commonwealth and head of a household is a unique experience.

visit to Moscow in October 1994 could have thought her less than delighted to be there. Only those who knew her well could diagnose how wounded she felt.

who was her favourite. She began to feel that she ought to do more about the children when Andrew was born.

Gordonstoun, this time driving there himself with his father sitting in the back, underlining his progress from boyhood to being an adult. He was made 'guardian' of the school, a rather watered-down Gordonstoun version of head boy.



Strained relations: Charles and the Queen at the Derby

'I've never wanted to get away from home,' he said. 'We happen to be a very close-knit family. I am happier at home with my family than anywhere else.'

ing. Charles stopped in his tracks and turned round, saying in a surprised voice: 'You called me darling!'

Elizabeth, her days and often also her evenings occupied with unavailing routine, never took the initiative in inviting her children's confidences. Although she was their mother, she was still the Queen and that invisible aura of distance surrounded her.

Book offer

Copies of Elizabeth can be bought by readers of The Times at a special price of £15 each (post and package free) from Reed Book Services...



Trouble upstairs, downstairs

RUNNING THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD

Michael Charles Gerrard Peat, aged 46, educated at Eton and Trinity College, Oxford, with an MBA from the top European business school INSEAD...

as Cupid to King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, and whose memoirs, Thatched with Gold...



Michael Peat: Palace apartment and a bonus

by Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, on which £280,000 was spent refurbishing it into two flats for Household staff.

total for the redecoration of this apartment and one for Peat's deputy next door was reputed to be £1 million.

reforms. The domestic staff have resented the clerical employees getting higher wages than they do, and feel that performance-related pay is unfair and impossible in the circumstances of their own employment.

The official response is that change was long overdue and in any case is always unpopular. That is true, but one could question the wisdom of damaging an ethos built up over the years: the sense of being a community and of belonging to a family which royal service had engendered.

Elizabeth is a traditionalist; although she has agreed to the reforms, people question how much she is now aware of what is going on. Memorandums are not a substitute for personal contact and there is little consultation between the personnel services and senior staff when it comes to recruitment.



The camera never lies: in this family portrait, Charles's troubled expression is in marked contrast to Anne's relaxed smile

This month's Clearance Offer.

Advertisement for mobile phones including Mitsubishi MT-9 and Pioneer PCC-750. Features include 'FREE CONNECTION TO VODAFONE LOWCALL WITH NO TARIFF INCREASES GUARANTEED FOR LIFE' and 'FREE LEATHER CASE'.

Vertical text on the left margin: 'it forgive', 'Russian minister resigns', 'party at risk'

Menswear that means business



LEFT: Silver suit, £520; white shirt, £89; grey/cream stripe tie, £45, Boss. Black leather lace-up shoes, £155, Russell & Bromley, 24-25 New Bond Street, W1; selected branches nationwide.

CENTRE: Beige check suit, £501; beige shirt, £59; beige/red/blue tie, £40, Hugo; black nylon jacket, £250, Boss.

RIGHT: Black single-breasted jacket, high-buttoned waistcoat and trousers sold as suit, £351; black knitted polo shirt, £37, Boss.

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Hugo Boss has moved away from its Wall Street image to suit the independent man of the 1990s

When a designer or a label so succinctly sums up a moment, what happens when the rest of the world eventually moves on? This was the problem facing Hugo Boss, the German menswear company whose slick tailoring was the business for a zillion would-be Gordon Gekkos in the 1980s.

"Together with Armani, Hugo Boss virtually cut the pattern of the late 1980s power suit," David Bradshaw, fashion director at *Arena* magazine, says. "At a time when wearing Hugo Boss was like driving a BMW and Wall Street was hip, its advertising campaign predicted that 'style would never go out of fashion'. This may be so but, after the Big Bang, Hugo Boss definitely did."

The company's image was stuck in a groove and had become seriously ungroovy. In 1993 Dr Peter Littmann, the new president of the company, proudly unveiled the new masterplan, a relaunch which split the original label into three individual brands: Hugo, a younger fashion-conscious line; Baldessarini, featuring exclusive designs; and Boss, concentrating on more traditional business styles.

By expanding the range and repackaging the product into specific target groups the company could reach a wider clientele while maintaining its prized original customer.

Identifying the need for a new look, the men in suits at Hugo Boss enlisted the help of big-name photographers Richard Avedon and Jurgen Teller, along with Fabien Baron, creative director of *Harper's Bazaar*. The resulting edgy advertising pictures, which were more concerned with creating the right mood than with showing much of the merchandise, struck the right note.

"The launch of the Hugo line and the excellent advertising campaign has given the company a new, younger face," Bradshaw says.

This weekend Hugo Boss

Fashion
journalist of
the year



IAIN R. WEBB

marks its successful comeback by opening its first store in Britain in Regent Street, London, exclusively stocking the Boss line. The UK is the largest international market for Hugo Boss. In 1994 retail turnover in Britain was £15.5 million. In the first half of 1995 the UK sales rose by 21.6 per cent.

"At the moment Hugo and Boss are the most powerful brands of menswear clothing in the world," says Tom Logan, merchandise director at Liberty department store, which also stocks the lines. "They provide great clothes for the modern businessman, but also give something for men to wear at weekends, something more relaxed. It is a brand with a flexible attitude."

"We dress men to emphasise their individuality," says Werner Baldessarini, design director at Hugo Boss, and the namesake of one of the lines. "With our three brands we cover the spectrum of men's tastes and requirements."

Certainly the sheer diversity of merchandise ensures that a man can tailor the collections to his own needs. "The values of the 1980s have changed in the 1990s. Today's lifestyle is characterised by more restraint, greater emphasis on private lives and more individual independence," says Baldessarini. "All this is reflected in style and fashion."

And, of course, in the wardrobe of the Hugo Boss man.



Chocolate-brown three-piece suit, £259, Hugo; black/cream pin-stripe shirt, £103, Boss; brown nylon parka, £229, Hugo.

All clothes by Hugo Boss. Boss, 184 Regent Street, W1 (0171-734 7919; stockist inquiries 0171-408 0220).

Photographs by ROD NISSEN-PETZER. Grooming by James Dodds

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سكزا من الأصل

First Lady ready to face her Congress accusers



HAPPY HABITAT

SIR Terence Conran, that giant of international design, is compared to those English amateurs of the 18th century who took a Grand Tour under the pretext of culture, when they yearned only to flee the foggy shores of Albion for the warmth of the southern sun. Habitat types are distinguished "explorers" who use Peter Mayle's *Toujours Provence* as their guidebook to the art of living. These English Europhiles find harmony in the simple objects of ordinary life: old pastis pitchers, glazed earthenware crockery, tin coffee pots, rustic dressers and slip-covered armchairs. Functional simplicity, but nothing too ascetic, is the motto. They often flatter themselves about their little wine cellar, and gaily practise the art of oenology between Saint-Remy-de-Provence and Butler's Wharf. The kitchen is their true living room; cooking lovingly is their hobby. Quite at ease in their era, the Happy Habitats hate extremes like total modernism or stale traditionalism.

Our little houses of horrors

Christian Lacroix has published a guide which reveals much of modern interior design in all its true ghastliness, reports Kate Muir

The rich, famous and fashionable are curling with embarrassment over a wickily acid guide to the excesses of modern design compiled by the couturier Christian Lacroix. *Styles d'aujourd'hui* lampoons the past 30 years of "interior magazines and their culture of narcissism".

It has been published in Paris, where it is virtually unavailable since dinner parties throughout the city are dedicated to spotting Lacroix's victims, but most of its caricatures could equally be found in London.

Many of them are horribly close to home — every home — like over-rosed "Coclefax and Fowler" and "Happy Habitat" as well as the "Zen Minimalism".

In the "Happy Habitat" analysis, Sir Terence Conran is compared to an English aristocrat on the Grand Tour who pretends to a serious cultural interest while really being interested only in lounging in the sun.

And the "King of Couture" section (aimed at Karl Lagerfeld, of Chanel, perhaps?) shows a room draped, chandeliered and gilded. The authors note that "a sort of aristocracy of the rag trade" has developed, with fabulous elegance, trailing behind it top models and beautiful people, a society dedicated to the superfluous. "It is the world as a temporary showroom."

The British designers Colefax and Fowler are taken to task for their "irrational passion for Marie Antoinette" and the eventual, horrible abuses of the Colefax and Fowler look. "The result is chintz with a huge motif of roses for vicarages in Kent ... nothing is more fragile than this mix of English country

house, and French good taste, tempered by Italian tones." But eventually, the over-use of the patterns has resulted instead in "Germanic rigour".

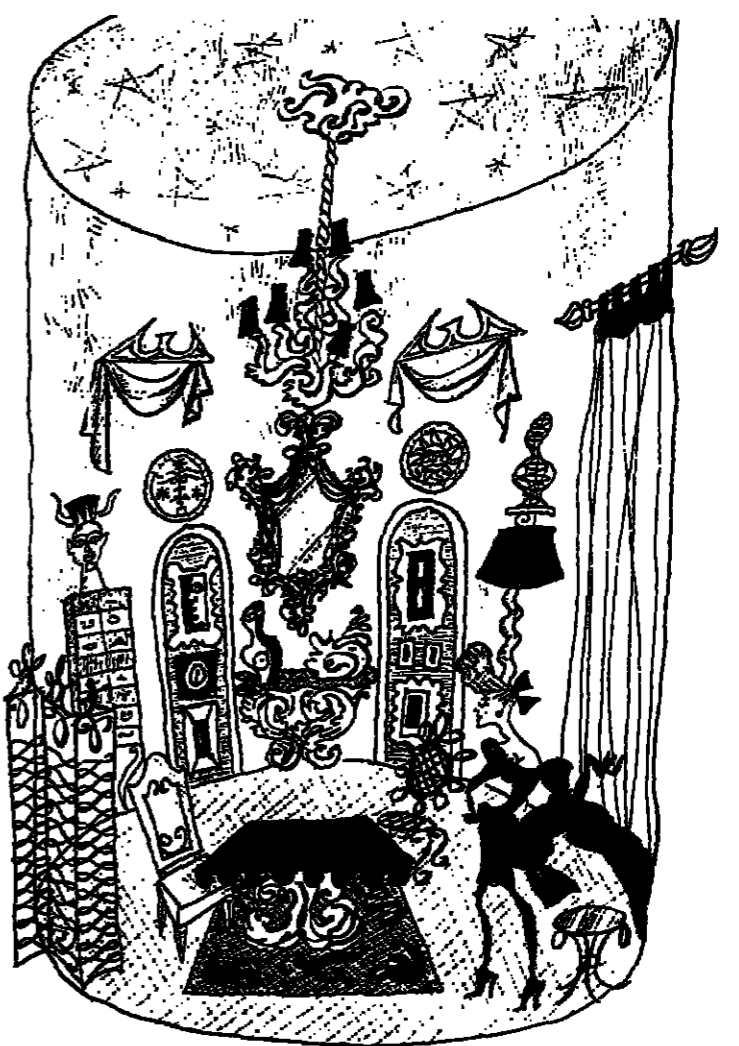
Even the plain loft does not escape ridicule. Natural brick, industrial features and modern paintings have all become terribly middle-class.

Cruel dissection of other people's taste is a national pastime, particularly in Britain. In the 1950s and 1960s Osbert Lancaster, of the *Daily Express*, invented descriptions of houses such as "Stockbroker's Tudor", "Bypass Variegated" and "Wimbledon Transitional". Lacroix and his collaborator, Patrick Mauries, say their book is in part a homage to Lancaster, and an updating of his work: "Certain old-style English people cherish his memory, but they will always be too few."

Now the British interior guru Stephen Bayley, who founded the Design Museum, is planning to write a similarly wicked British encyclopaedia, with provisional labels such as "Jewish Renaissance", "Early Horrible", "Neo Provence" and "Women's Guardian".

Bayley believes the subject to be of great cultural significance: "Ever since Prince Albert installed tarzan linoleum in Balmoral, interior design has been a poorly revealing gauge of taste."

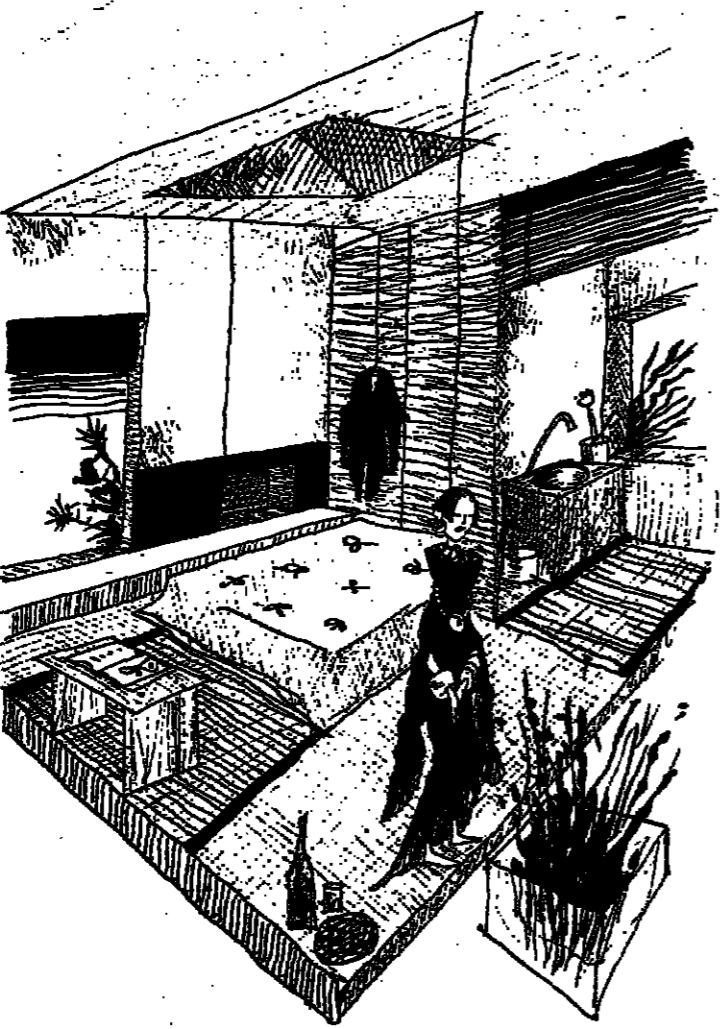
But he disagrees with the Lacroix-Mauries theory that decorating is a French subject. He claims interior design was invented at the turn of the century by an American named Elsie de Wolfe. "She was the person who introduced new American money to old French furniture. When she saw the Parthenon she said: 'It's beige! My colour!'"



NEO-BAROQUE

THE Neo-Baroque style dates back to the mid-1930s, when the French millionaire Charles de Beistegui commissioned an octagonal apartment from the minimalist architect Corbusier, and then proceeded to fill it with pompous candelabras, fancy crystal, Baroque Venetian furniture and Napoleon III pouffes all intended to infuriate Corbusier. The resulting bizarre contradiction in terms became famous since it expressed the first wave of rejection of Modernism. This anti-Modernism had a resurgence everywhere 50 years later, pioneered by ordinary people who remained against its ascetic style. Neo-Baroque signals the triumphal return of ornament: grainy metals and black-painted wood are replaced by painted plaster and gilded bronzes. Louis XV/II furniture has made a comeback, and magical or elemental symbols like moons are included. The only danger is that it can veer towards the vulgar Rococo Rock style.

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ZEN MINIMALISM

MINIMALISM is to decoration what Zen is to philosophy. Searing and definitive, ethical beneath the aesthetic, it is the last word for those with consciences saturated by consumerism. Squares are used religiously for windows, doors and cupboards. There are moveable partitions, a light, a tank of stone serving as a bath — but no ornaments. Minimalists believe they will be redeemed by the futon, that they can meditate in the kitchen and create the metaphysical from the hygienic. This trend to bloodless Japanese style, trendy in the early 1980s, has all the allure of a terminal illness.



EIGHTIES LOFT

THE loft-dweller is torn in two — concerned with modernity, light, space and purity, and at the same time part of the past. Loft-dwellers value supporting columns, industrial architecture, plain or white walls, wooden floorboards, natural brick walls and huge windows. They have a horror of screens and partitions. In Soho, Wapping and Montparnasse, loft-dwellers cook in the living room and have bathrooms in their bedrooms. The loft is a perfect expression of the 1980s — an obvious demonstration of wealth by sheer size. But it is dangerously close to becoming the traditional apartment.



DECO DISCO

THIS was the start of decorating fashion paralleling clothes fashion. Deco Disco followers rediscovered Thirties style, encompassing everything from Dietrich to theatrical make-up with red lips and dark eyes. Deco Disco means ebony and white satin. Its proponents know the nuances of eggshell and off-white and are fond of tubular chrome. Geometric and vertical. Deco is not famed for its comfort. It does not tolerate mixing or eclecticism. You end up being bored by the endless bars finished in Deco style, right down to the mirrors and potted palms. True Art Deco has been gobbled up by Disco.

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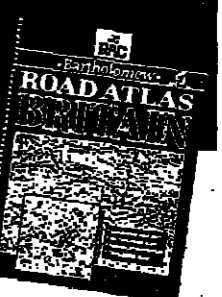
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COURT CIRCULAR
BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 16: The Lady Susan Hussey has succeeded the Lady Elton as Lady in Waiting to the Queen.

Luncheon
The London Insurance and Reinsurance Market Association Viscount Chelmsford was the guest of honour at a luncheon to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the creation of LIRMA, held yesterday at the Mansion House...

Dinners
Royal Society of Medicine
Sir Donald Harrison, President of the Royal Society of Medicine, accompanied by Lady Harrison, received the guests at a reception and dinner held last night at 1 Wimpole Street...

Reception
British Safety Council
Mr James Tye, Director General of the British Safety Council, was the host at a reception held yesterday at Armourers' Hall for the Diploma in Safety Management awards.

Legal appointment
Mr John Quentin Campbell to be a Circuit Judge, assigned to the South Eastern Circuit.

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales will open the Spy Abstraction Scheme, Bakers' Visitors Centre, Fochabers, Morayshire, at 11.30.
The Princess Royal will present the 1995 Woodware Business Awards at the Royal Institution of Great Britain at 10.25 as President of the Save the Children Fund...

Today's events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11.00.
Woolmen's Company
The following have been elected officers of the Woolmen's Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mr Michael D. Abraham...

University news

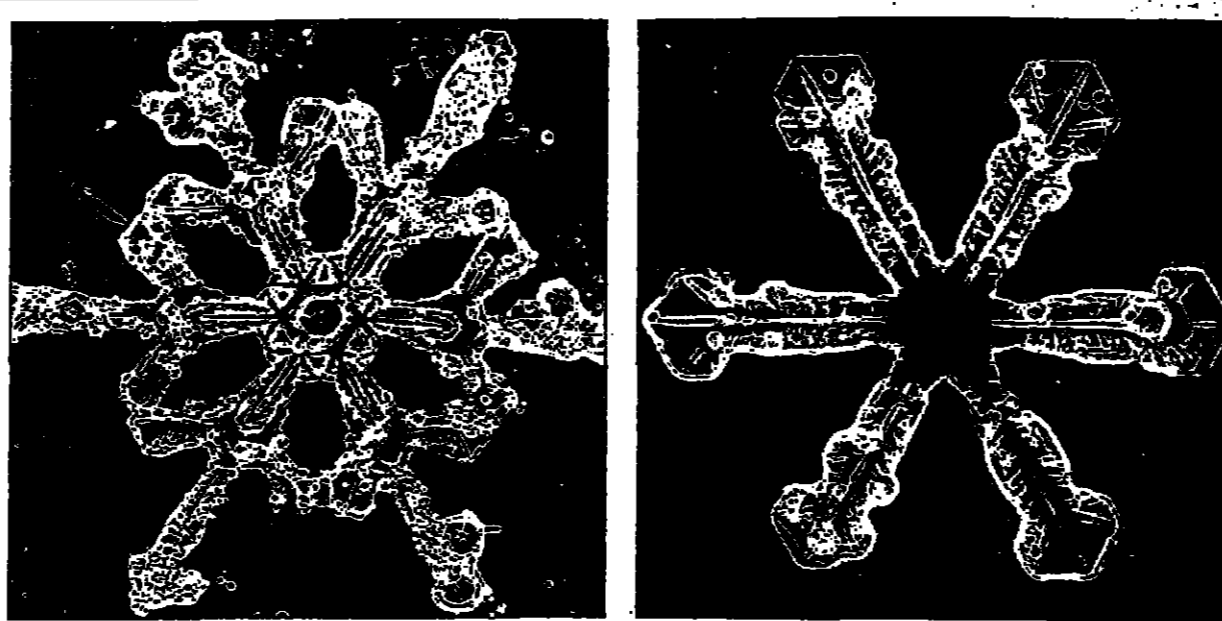
Oxford
New College
The following have been elected to Fellowships: Paddy Andrew Phillips, Professional Fellowship, May Reader in Medicine (from March 1)...

Appointments

Mr Peter Young to be High Commissioner to the Bahamas, from early May, in succession to Mr Brian Atwell who will be retiring from the Diplomatic Service.

Today's birthdays

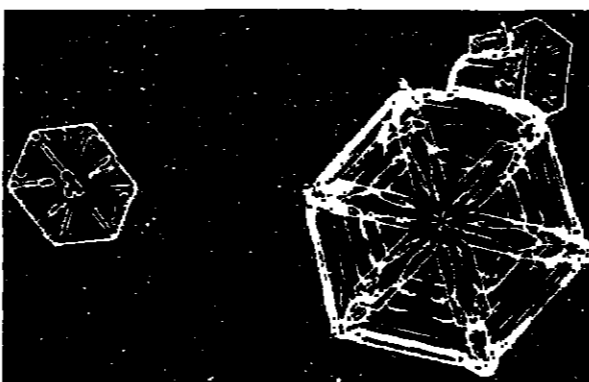
Mr Muhammad Ali, boxer, 54; Sir William Bonyton, farmer, 66; Sir John Boyd, diplomat, 66; Sir Malcolm Chapman, chartered surveyor, 62; Sir Michael Clapham, former chairman, I.M.I., 84; Sir Mervyn Davies, former High Court judge, 78; Sir Edward Fennessy, radio pioneer, 84; Mrs Monica Furlong, writer, 66; Mr Neil W. Gamble, headmaster, Exeter School, 53; Mr Paul Howell, former MEP, 45; Mr James Earl Jones, actor, 65; Mr Anthony Kenney, obstetrician and gynaecologist, 54; the Right Rev Nigel McCulloch, Bishop of Wakefield, 54; Sir Geoffrey Patke, MP, 60; Professor W.B. Robertson, histopathologist, 73; Mr Vidal Sassoon, hair stylist, 62; Miss Moira Strachan, 78; Mr Dennis Tunnicliffe, managing director, London Underground, 53; Sir Clyde Walcott, K.A. cricketer, 70; Mr George Walker, former Governor, Styal prison, 59; Dr Gillian Weir, singer, 40.



Microscope slides of Antarctic snowflakes may help to show the effects of global warming: on the left, a snowflake formed in cloud with water drops and crystals present, and on the right, a small snowflake

Scientist puts his head in the clouds

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT
BRITISH scientists are investigating the mysteries of Antarctica's clouds after collecting snowflakes and a curious airborne ice crystal called diamond dust.



Diamond dust, ice particles that fall from a cloudless Antarctic sky, seen on a microscope

meteorologist at the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge, said yesterday: "Glaciologists look at the ice sheets and how they might alter with global climate change. What they need to know is how much snow will fall on them. When we run the climate models it is not obvious that they represent snowfall in Antarctica correctly. This is because we do not understand the complex microphysics going on within these clouds."

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P.L. Atkinson and Miss E.H. Radford
The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mr Leonard Atkinson and the late Mrs Atkinson, of Camberley, Surrey, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs Martin Radford, of Mere, Wiltshire.

Marriages

Mr P.W. Leatham and the Hon Caroline Woodhouse
A service of blessing was held yesterday in the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft, Palace of Westminster, after the marriage of Mr Philip Leatham, son of the late Major Patrick Leatham and the late the Hon Mrs Taylor, to the Hon Caroline Woodhouse, daughter of Lord and Lady Terrington, Canon Donald Gray officiated.

School news

Edgehill College, Devon
Term started Wednesday, January 10. Sixth Form Scholarships have been awarded to Natalie Beer, Jessica Jackson, Wilok Lau, Hannah Strawbridge. Exhibitions have been awarded to Christian Fletcher-Cann, Ann, Roland, Sara Harding, Emily Stone.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Leonard Fuchs, physician and botanist, Wembdinger, Germany, 1901; Thomas Fairfax, Conservative Party politician, parliamentary commander in the Civil War, Denton, Yorkshire, 1612; Benjamin Franklin, statesman, scientist and printer, Boston, Massachusetts, 1706; George Lytton, 1st Baron Lytton, statesman, historian and poet, London, 1801; James Hall, geologist, Dungslass, Lothian, 1761; Charles Keen, actor, Waterford, Co Waterford, 1811; August Weismann, geneticist, Frankfurt am Main, 1834; David Lloyd George, 1st Earl Lloyd George of Dwyfor, Prime Minister 1916-22, Manchester, 1863; Konstantin Stanislavsky, co-founder of the Moscow Art Theatre, Moscow, 1863; David Byatt, 1st Earl Byatt, Admiral of the Fleet, Nantwich, Cheshire, 1871; Mack Sennett, film producer and creator of the Keystone Cops, Richmond, Quebec, 1880; Sir Compton Mackenzie, novelist, West Hartlepool, 1853; Ronald Firbank, novelist, London, 1886.

Latest wills

Baroness Greenwood of Rossendale, of London NW3, the artist designer, widow of Baron Greenwood of Rossendale, the former Labour MP for Rossendale and Cabinet Minister, left estate valued at £163,523 net.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Mark Cockayne, Assistant Curate, Armthorpe, Doncaster, to be Vicar, Malfrin Bridge, Sheffield (Sheffield).
The Rev Norman Jeffrey, Vicar, Woburn Sands, to be also Rural Dean of Ampthill (St Albans).

PERSONAL COLUMN

PERSONAL COLUMN
BIRTHS: OLIVER - To Germaine (nee O'Connell) and Nicholas on 10th January 1996, aged 10 months, at Poole Maternity Hospital, Dorset.
DEATHS: BOLTON - Ruby Edna Mary, on 11th January 1996, aged 100 years, at St. Mary's Hospital, Northampton.
DEATHS: COBB - Richard Charles, husband of Margaret, died peacefully at home on 12th January 1996, aged 82 years.

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Journalists are often blamed for whipping up public fears but statisticians could help by making their figures more accessible

The chances are we won't understand

TEACH MORALS in school? Teach probabilities instead. The country is in a sad state indeed when people worry more about terrorist attacks than accidents in the home.

torment, starting with comparative fares. Rail or air? Coach or car? Which airline? People who are really nervous might worry whether they should ever go to San Francisco. There are calculable odds on being there the day the "big one" strikes.

Most of us want to be realistic about life's dangers but we are not helped by the way they are presented from on high. The Department of Health recently demonstrated how not to do it. It sent a warning to doctors about certain oral contraceptives. When the news got into the press and panic developed, women were told they should consult their doctors if they were worried.

rise in pregnancies among unmarried teenagers. How much better if the fear had been anticipated and the news had been given out publicly, preceded by a health warning: the risk of thrombosis from pregnancy is greater than that from any oral contraceptive. Most of us, says the British Medical Association, consider a



BRENDA MADDOX

one-in-a-million risk not worth bothering about. This useful measure ought to be applied whenever possible. All medical news stories should be balanced by illustrations of the chances of encountering the hazard in question.

above all a high-principled, steely businessman who knows how to do the job in hand. Sworn to respect the BBC's impartiality, he will do it. Whether his closeness to the John Birt, the Director-General, is to the BBC's advantage is another matter. There is a natural antagonism between the corporate roles of chairman and chief executive to which friendship could add either over-costiness or stress.

chairman of the Hammersmith Hospitals Trust. What is certain is that Sir Christopher knows the business of television and its regulation inside out and he will confidently steer the BBC through the shoals ahead: renegotiating the level of the licence fee, appointing (or reappointing) a new Director-General and solving the sports-and-satellites problem. It is less sure whether he will restore the BBC's staff morale. I once got into a casual disagreement with him and wished I hadn't.

principle

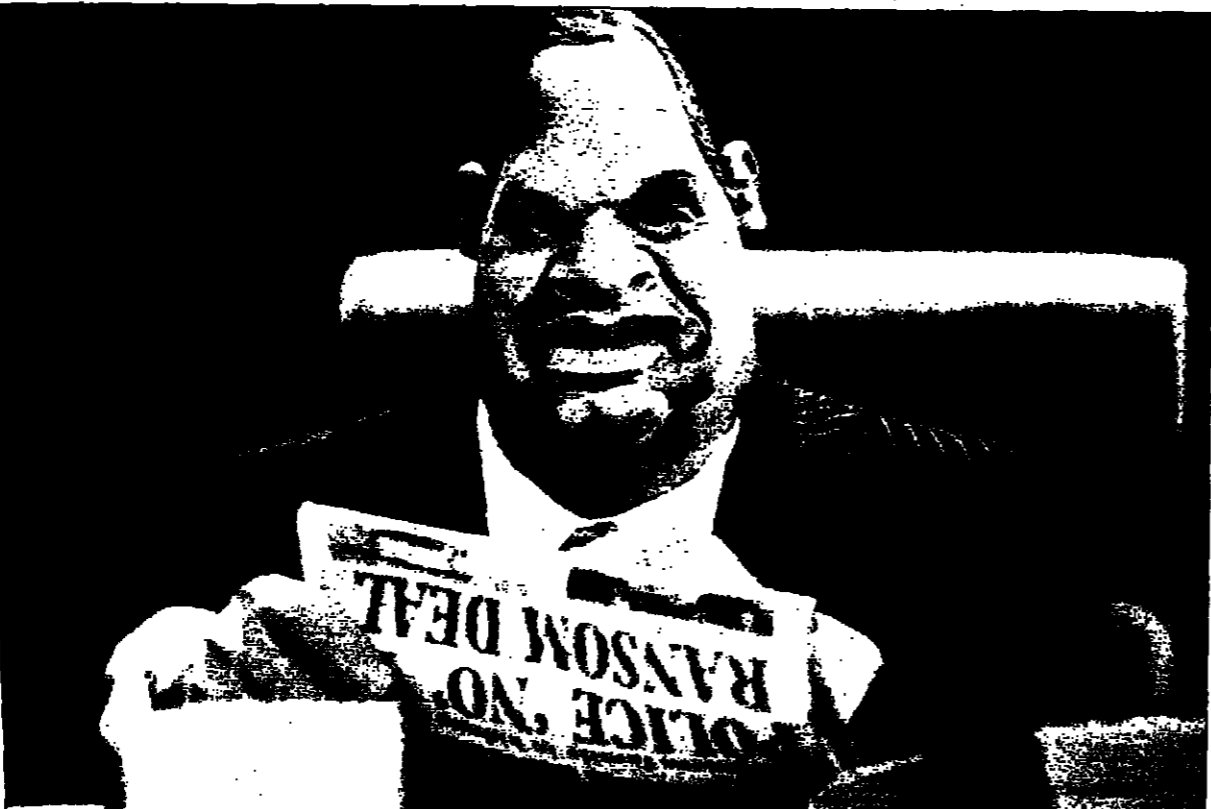
Establishment tendencies

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Publications

European Sales Director Executive

MUSIC



While Eddy Shah was depicted as an ogre by Spitting Image for trying to start a non-union newspaper, Murdoch moved his newspapers to Wapping, bypassing the unions and sparking nightly clashes between pickets and police



Wapping saved the newspaper industry

It is ten years since Rupert Murdoch set out to break the stranglehold of the print unions. Andrew Knight assesses the impact for editors and readers

en years ago an upheaval began in the newspaper industry whose results today are wholly normal. When measure the change that taken place since the soil at Wapping, however, startling.

graph was effectively bankrupt and failing as a product. Both are now prime newspapers. Later that same year The Independent was to teach three slumbering broadsheets (the Telegraph, Times and Guardian) how to improve many aspects of their newspapers. Yet even The Independent would not have survived so long without Wapping.

newspaper. In Fleet Street, it was harder for a new voice like mine to persuade harassed managers and editors than the comfortable union bosses that "1986 will be the year of Murdoch not of Shah".

picked up by Eddy Shah at Warrington. Then the huge challenge of the miners' strike had to be dealt with on a national level. Finally, came Wapping.

Gromit to the rescue

THERE no end to the ventures of Wallace and Gromit, the plasticine creations of the Bristol-based, any Aardman Anima-

Why must the press depict everyone with mental illness as a crazed killer, asks Ruth Runciman

Tell the truth about Broadmoor

Broadmoor Hospital occupies a special place in the public's imagination. Everyone has heard of it, but not everyone will know that it is one of the NHS's three Special Hospitals, which provide care and treatment for patients defined as having "dangerous, violent or criminal propensities".



Typical sensational headlines when the Princess of Wales visited Broadmoor

coverage is unmistakable: it demoralises professionals, damages and confuses patients, and undermines public understanding. The only remedy open to the hospitals is to complain to the papers and the Press Complaints Commission.

Table with columns: Date, Time, Producer, Genre, Aud (Millions) At 4+ for various TV programs.

NEWS

Terrorists hijack Black Sea ferry

■ Chechen rebels seized a Turkish ferry in the Black Sea port of Trabzon, killing one passenger and threatening to shoot all the Russians on board...

TUC chief hails stakeholding

■ The leader of the trade union movement fuels the political dispute over Tony Blair's plans for a "stakeholder economy" by asserting that it will help the unions to rebuild their influence...

Stage language

Trevor Nunn, the theatre director, attacked Sir James Spenser, the Royal Opera House Opera Board chairman, for calling him a "bastard" during a television documentary...

Drop of the hard stuff

A woman is suing a former publisher claiming she suffered brain damage from lead poisoning after repeatedly drinking cider from a painted mug...

Ski tragedy

Kirsteen McGibbon, Britain's female downhill skiing champion, was killed after crashing during training for the Lowlander championships in Austria...

Millennium murmurs

A battle to host the Millennium Exhibition has degenerated into a slanging match as supporters of Greenwich have accused rivals in Birmingham of starting a whispering campaign...

Heseltine gaffe

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, inadvertently disclosed the monthly unemployment figures a day before their official publication...

World Service deal

The Government moved to head off a backbench rebellion over cuts in the BBC World Service budget by announcing a new financing deal...

Parents found dead

The parents of a schoolgirl who was found dead with a tie looped round her neck after being scolded about her untidy room were discovered hanged...

India warned

America, detecting signs that India may be preparing a nuclear war, has warned Delhi that benefits will be frozen if an explosion takes place...

Tree evictions

Evidence against "professional protesters" compiled by a private detective agency will be used by Government solicitors next week to evict the tree-house dwellers delaying construction of the Newbury bypass...

Iraqis spared

A formal surrender of Iraqi forces after the success of the American-led coalition in 1991 was ruled out by former President Bush and John Major because it would have been wrong to humiliate the Iraqi people...

Trawler disaster

Six novice sailors were sent to their deaths aboard an unseaworthy trawler that capsized off the Cornish coast, a court was told...

Germans stunned

President Weizman of Israel stunned Germany with a speech to parliament that addressed the problems still dividing Germans and Jews...

Lancashire - the dream of a Queen

■ The quiet backwater to which the Queen dreams of retiring is the Hodder Valley set in 6,000 acres of Crown lands in the Forest of Bowland, close to the market town of Clitheroe, Lancashire...



President Nelson Mandela, in a cricket blazer, with Basil D'Oliveira after a lunch he held for the former England cricketer in Pretoria

BUSINESS

Jobs: Scottish & Newcastle, Britain's biggest brewer, is to shed 1,600 workers from its Halifax and Nottingham breweries...

SPORT

Tennis: Tim Henman beat Petr Korda, ranked 20th in the world, in the first round of the Australian Open...

ARTS

A to Z: Meet three millennia of secret geniuses, from Emily Dickinson, who wrote 800 pages of unpublished poetry, to Adolphe Sax...

TELEVISION

Preview: Rippling muscles, hair transplants - the look is the thing for Hollywood Men (ITV, 9pm). Review: Lynne Truss on fraught days and unruly nights at the opera...

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 47.9 to 3710.6...

Weather: Fog, rain, wind, light, drizzle, mainly along the coast...

AA Roadwatch: For the latest AA roadwatch information...

Hours of Darkness: Sun rises 7:59 am, sets 4:23 pm...

Flight Savers: LONDON TO NICE from £96 return...

Flight Savers: LONDON TO HELN from £129 return...

Flight Savers: LONDON TO COPENHAGEN from £149 return...

Football: Paul Ince, who made his last appearance for England in October 1994...

Crickets: If England are not to go to the World Cup...

Racing: Edward Gillespie, the acting clerk of the course...

Books: Are Jews facing the biggest ever threat to their survival...

Books: The quiet backwater to which the Queen dreams of retiring...

Late debut: Korngold's 1920 opera Die tote Stadt...

Surprise hit: When the British director Mike Figgis made his latest film, Leaving Las Vegas...

Mixed fortunes: Stephen Urwin's production of Macbeth...

Anniversary: It is ten years since Rupert Murdoch broke the stranglehold of the print unions...

Stopping the rot: You can dream about repairing a romantic ruin...

What has happened to our red-blooded, blue-blooded youth?

"Stakeholder" ideal: Iraqi people's plight after five years of sanctions...

Elizabeth and Charles: Devotion to duty left its mark on Charles...

Design victims: Christian Lacroix, the couturier, and Patrick Mauroux...

Ninesies man: The label said Eighties menswear...

Anniversary: It is ten years since Rupert Murdoch broke the stranglehold of the print unions...

Stopping the rot: You can dream about repairing a romantic ruin...

What has happened to our red-blooded, blue-blooded youth?

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TV LISTINGS

Preview: Rippling muscles, hair transplants - the look is the thing for Hollywood Men (ITV, 9pm). Review: Lynne Truss on fraught days and unruly nights at the opera...

OPINION

Battle sites

The Millennium exhibition is a chance to show that London remains the finest capital in Europe: a national asset, to be enjoyed and cherished by all...

Christian democrats

De Klerk must continue his search for a programme which appeals to all South Africans: his Christian Democrat principles should belong to no one race...

Silent thunder

Another language has left the world, in a catalogue of mortality that passes unnoticed by all but a few grieving specialists...

SIMON JENKINS

As one knife plunges into the career of the box office manager, so another plunges into Carmen to the same music...

ALAN COREN

Had the inspector taken his brain out of its box for long enough to make the simple phone call to Lego which mine has just done...

PETER RIDDELL

The Tories will not get very far with scare stories about the union bogey. Nevertheless, the Labour leader needs to provide clarification about what stakeholding means...

Professor Richard Cobb, historian of the French Revolution

Lord McPadgean, chairman of BICC, 1954-73; Ann Elwell, intelligence officer and diplomat...

"Stakeholder" ideal: Iraqi people's plight after five years of sanctions

extra daylight Bill...

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,066

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-24.

- ACROSS: 1 Turn and sneer when trapped (8). 5 Religious disunity is obvious in second church mass (6). 8 It provides accompaniment to Pinaflore production (10). 9 Clue that's found in middle of drawer (4). 10 Unpleasant job for a villain? (5,3,2,4). 11 I have come back to make an impression, it's clear (7). 13 Old Northerner you're reportedly painting (7). 15 Date and remove (4,3). 18 Essayist and MP is an odd combination (7). 21 Suspended land work in Babylon (7,7). 22 Dance circle's lost member (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,065

IMPALPABLE G S A V R A ABRADE BLUETRO AR N I R M FANLIGHT G S E M P L I ANTI MERCANTILE G O M P F O M CONNIVE OFFENCE B I E O I X N PENNYROYAL CAST I E S I H A APPOINT A A P N I A S S O I H A N C O N I S B E G I R E S E A S Y D O E S I T

TIMES WEATHERCALL

Table of weather forecasts for various regions including Greater London, Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Devon, Cornwall, Wales, etc.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA roadwatch information, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 followed by appropriate code. London & SE traffic, roadworks, etc.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises 7:59 am, sets 4:23 pm. Moon rises 1:30 pm, moon sets 4:28 am.

New Moon January 20

London 4:27 pm to 7:59 am. Bristol 4:33 pm to 8:07 am. Edinburgh 4:14 pm to 8:31 am. Manchester 4:22 pm to 8:15 am. Perthshire 4:20 pm to 8:13 am.

FLIGHT SAVERS

Flight Savers advertisement for routes: LONDON TO NICE from £96 return, LONDON TO HELN from £129 return, LONDON TO COPENHAGEN from £149 return.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table showing wind speed, rain, and cloud cover for various locations around Britain yesterday.

ABROAD

Table of weather forecasts for various international locations including Moscow, London, Paris, Rome, etc.

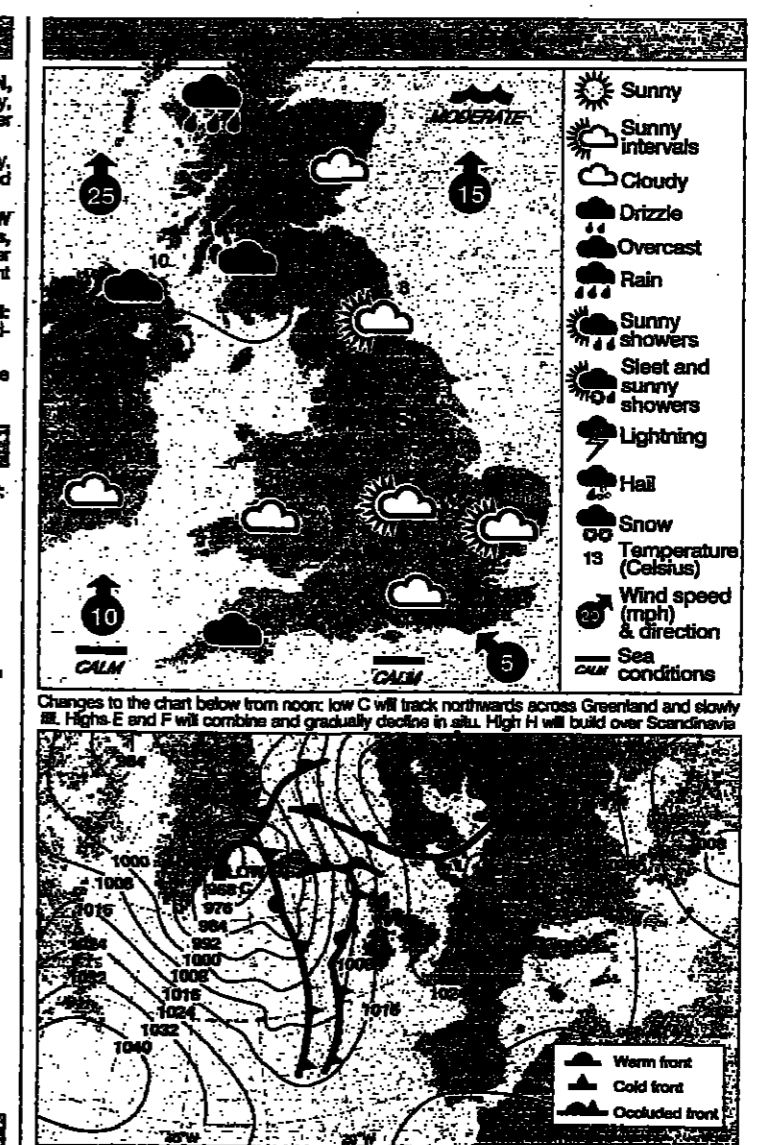


Table of flight times for various routes including London Bridge, London Heathrow, Luton, etc.

The outlook in Bermuda is heavenly. For our 1996 brochure, call Bermuda Tourism on 01753 517 517 quoting ref: TWS or see your travel agent.

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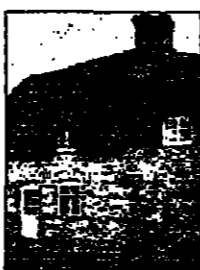
هكذا من الأصل

ARTS 32-34



From Tyneside to Hollywood: Mike Figgis makes good

HOMES 30



The stark reality of owning a listed building

SPORT 39-44



Rusedski fails to match Henman's opening victory

TELEVISION AND RADIO Pages 42, 43

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 17 1996

S&N sheds 1,600 jobs after Courage acquisition

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY SCOTTISH & NEWCASTLE, Britain's biggest brewer, is shedding 1,600 jobs at its beer division in a radical restructuring that follows the group's acquisition of Courage last year.

Transport and General Workers Union's national secretary for the drinks industry, said: "The industry is still adjusting to the ill-conceived Monopoly and Merger Commission report The Supply of Beer, which has created a concentration in the industry. Many thousands of jobs have already been lost through this MMC report."

ly is from the reality of insecure Britain." Details are still being finalised and Scottish Courage, the newly created beer division of S&N, said that the job cuts would be made over the next 12 months. The restructuring programme, which follows a six-month review of the business, will cost £150 million in severance payments and other expenses. The company said that the measures would yield annual savings of £75 million. It is not clear yet how many of the job cuts will be forced.

more streamlined structure." Home Brewery in Nottingham will shut by August and Fountain Head Brewery in Halifax by October. Throughout the year there will also be closures of the distribution and sales depots at Stepps in Strathclyde, Garforth near Leeds, Gateshead, Nottingham, Preston, Aylesford, Swanssea, Dunstable, Cardiff, Southampton and Merton. Further depot casualties will come from the amalgamation of three London centres and the replacement of Brierley Hill in the West Midlands. S&N is to pull together its trading operations in the new division of Scottish Courage Brands.

The rationalisation by S&N was announced by the company when it took over Courage. At the time, it said how much it intended to spend but was quiet on how the restructuring would be achieved. The City will now focus on how S&N shapes its post-Courage strategy. Matthew Naylor, drinks analyst with Williams de Broe, said: "The cost-cutting was necessary but the company cannot continue slicing at costs. Expectations will be on what new products it can develop. That is the only opportunity to grow the business."

Tempus, Page 26

BUSINESS TODAY

Table with financial data including STOCK MARKET INDICES, US RATE, LONDON MONEY, and STERLING.

Granada raid grabs 9% of Forte

GRANADA snapped up £340 million of Forte shares in a 30-minute stock market raid yesterday and said the speed of the purchases indicated that the takeover bid was going in its favour. Granada, whose £3.8 billion hostile bid closes on Tuesday, bought 87.5 million Forte shares, equivalent to 9.2 per cent of the share capital, at 384p apiece. The price was the same as the value of its shares and cash offer at the time of the purchases, which occurred between 10.45am and 11.5am. The all-cash alternative is worth 362p.

up 14.2p, while Granada shares finished at 693p, up 23p. The identity of the sellers is unknown, although some were said to be market-makers. The names of the institutions which sold 1 per cent or more of Forte's shares will be revealed today in so-called Rule 8 disclosures. Mercury Asset Management, Forte's largest shareholder with more than 15 per cent, would not comment on whether it had sold Forte shares yesterday. A Granada adviser called Granada's open-market raid "a very good sign" but Forte remained defiant. Sir Rocco Forte, chief executive, said: "We remain confident that Forte shareholders will decide this on the merits and will reject this highly leveraged conglomerate bid."



Sir Anthony Tennant, Forte's chairman elect, left, with Burton's John Hoerner

City scents another cut

THE FT-SE 100 index climbed above 3,700 and gilts scored gains of about 1/4% as City hopes rose sharply on the prospect of another interest rate cut (writes Michael Clark). The equity market struggled off an overnight fall on Wall Street to close at its best of the day with a rise of 47.9 to 3,710.6. It was the market's best one-day performance for three months and leaves it just 18 points shy of its record. Brokers were hopeful that today's meeting between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, will pave the way for a rate cut. Stock market, page 26

Peoples Phone postpones planned £200m flotation

PEOPLES PHONE, Britain's largest independent mobile-phone service provider, yesterday postponed a flotation planned for next month that was expected to have valued it at about £200 million. Directors yesterday blamed trading conditions in the UK mobile-phone market for the decision. They said the market had failed to live up to expectations in the run-up to Christmas and this affected sentiment towards the company. It claimed 7 per cent of the market of 5 million subscribers. Peoples Phone said its market share in December was

Peoples Phone postpones planned £200m flotation

below internal forecasts and this is likely to have continued into January because of competition from other retailers. The company, however, expressed confidence about the medium and long term saying that growth in the UK mobile-phone market is expected to continue. Peoples Phone has a nationwide chain of 175 showrooms and claims more than 365,000 customers. Existing backers include Singer & Friedlander, the investment bank, and the Ivory & Sime fund-management group. Tony Solomons, Singer & Friedlander's chairman,

Peoples Phone postpones planned £200m flotation

chairs the company. Peoples Phone was founded in 1988 by Charles Wigoder, now its chief executive. The company planned to increase its showrooms to 250 within two years. Sales rose from £43.8 million in 1992 to £118.5 million in 1994 and were expected to double by 1998. The high cost of taking on new subscribers meant, however, that the group was expected to have shown a loss in its prospectus before an expected recovery to profits of almost £4 million in 1995-96. The group hoped for profits of £26 million in 1998.

SIB accused of weak stance in pension scandal

By ROBERT MILLER

A PROGRESS report by the City's most senior watchdog on the £4 billion personal pensions mis-selling review has been greeted with dismay. Consumer bodies, unions and MPs united yesterday to condemn the Securities and Investments Board (SIB) for its failure to inflict tougher disciplinary measures on firms and advisers who have missed case review and compensation deadlines. Nearly 1.5 million cases will have to be reviewed for evidence that investors were wrongly advised to leave their occupational or company pension scheme, or not join in the first place, in favour of a personal pension plan. But up to 250,000 investors, who include nurses, miners, local authority workers and police officers, have not received letters from their independent financial adviser (IFA) alerting them to the review. Kate Scribbens of the Consumers' Association said: "The most urgent cases should have been resolved by the end of 1995. Yet most IFAs have not even started the process. We are particularly concerned by the watering down of the review process that will be carried out by IFAs. This appears to be a climbdown by

the regulators and a victory for vested interests." Ms Scribbens added: "We want to see the SIB forcing the pace by ensuring that the next deadlines are met, and cracking down on companies who are dragging their feet." Sir Andrew Large, chairman of the SIB, said that teething problems last year, such as several legal challenges to the review and computer software problems, had now been ironed out. While some companies had done their best to comply with the review and compensation process, others were dragging their heels. Sir Andrew said any company guilty of obstructing the review could face disciplinary action. This might involve hefty fines or even expulsion from the industry. Alistair Darling, Labour's City spokesman, said: "Blaming the delays on computer software isn't good enough. The regulators must... act for the public good." John Monks, TUC general secretary, said: "Some companies have made genuine efforts to compensate those ripped off, but too many are way behind schedule. It is now time for the regulator to crack the whip."

Coe faces Rom Data questions

Sebastian Coe, the athlete turned Conservative MP, and David Jamieson, Labour MP for Plymouth Devonport, are expected to be questioned by police next week over the collapse of Rom Data Corporation of Falmouth, the computer firm that received an £850,000 grant from the DTI. Mr Jamieson, who has followed the Rom Data case since its collapse, said that he and Mr Coe expected to be asked to tell police what they know of the circumstances surrounding the collapse. City Diary, page 27

Banks call for clear policy on 'Euro'

By PATRICIA TEHAN BANKING CORRESPONDENT BRITISH banks are finding it impossible to plan for the arrival of the new "Euro" because of political indecision, according to senior bankers. Gerald Hawkins, chairman of an industry committee working on the implications of the single currency and a general manager of payment services at Lloyds Bank, told a House of Lords committee that banks were "operating in a policy vacuum". Mr Hawkins is chairman of a joint British Bankers' Association (BBA) and Asso-

ciation for Payment Clearing Services (Apacs) steering committee on economic and monetary union (EMU). A BBA paper on single currency estimated that British banks would have to spend at least £914 million to prepare for the Euro if Britain opts into the single currency, but less than half that amount if it opted out. The paper was given to the House of Lords Select Committee on the European Communities as part of its inquiry on EMU. Mr Hawkins said that bank boards were having to take decisions on spending without knowing what sort

of preparations for a single currency they needed to make. He said political and Bank of England leadership was needed to confront the problem; it should not be left to the banks. Under the current timetable, full monetary union is due to be achieved in 2002. However, Britain can opt out of single currency under an agreement in the Maastricht treaty. Mr Hawkins said: "In order to prepare ourselves for 2002, we are having to make quite large investment decisions in a scenario where it is quite unclear whether we are going to be in or out." He said the position of rival

French and German banks was much clearer as they increasingly operate on a Europe-wide basis and "operate in a much clearer policy position". Afterwards he said: "We need to make the right moves now to make sure that London is not disadvantaged. In order to do that in a sensible way, we need decisions and support from the authorities." Tim Sweeney, BBA director-general, said he was concerned that if Britain opted out of a single currency, it could face discrimination in the European system by which banks settle transactions with each other.

CONTACT US if you need a helicopter. URGENTLY. GRAVY STAINS removed from your tie. A window in your diary. Someone to work till 2am, THREE NIGHTS RUNNING. And your mountain of post reduced to a MEMO. MAINE-TUCKER RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Virgin consortium on track for £3bn channel tunnel contract

Treasury backs L&CR rail link bid

By Jonathan Prynn Transport Correspondent

TREASURY officials are pressing ministers to award the £3 billion Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL) contract to London & Continental Railways (L&CR), the consortium that includes Virgin Group and National Express, the bus company.

The group of senior civil servants and bankers advising the Government on awarding the contract believe that only L&CR has the necessary transport experience to turn struggling Eurostar into a profitable operation.

Eurostar is the only other consortium in the shortlist, which is led by Trafalgar House and BICC, is handicapped by having no specialist transport operators among its shareholders.

number of passengers using the train, which runs between Waterloo International and Brussels and Paris. Just over 3 million passengers travelled on Eurostar last year, its first full year of operation, compared with the 16 million forecast in 1987.

A projected 5.1 million are expected to use Eurostar this year, against a forecast of 10 million in December 1994. The latest estimates from EPS suggest that passenger numbers will rise to only 10 million by the end of the century.

Barclays wins Barings deal on asset management

By Patricia Tehan, Banking Correspondent

BARINGS is to close its custodian business in July and recommend that asset management clients representing assets worth £10 billion use Barclays Bank for global custody services instead.



Michael Heseltine with the revolutionary glass at Pilkington where he announced unemployment figures

British Gas under pressure on servicing arrangements

LABOUR yesterday demanded an inquiry into the failure of British Gas to offer non-contract service work to large parts of the country.

Nigel Griffiths, the Shadow Consumer Minister, said: "Many people simply cannot afford expensive maintenance contracts. The backlog is a result of axing 25,000 jobs."

and that the situation was changing daily. However, an inquiry to its office dealing with much of west London and outlying areas was again met with the response that the company is not taking non-contract work and is unlikely to have spare capacity until March.

Heseltine marks visit with error

MICHAEL HESELTINE, the Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday welcomed the 28th successive monthly fall in unemployment figures at a visit to the Pilkington Technology Centre at Lathom in Lancashire.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Index points the way for Littlewoods

LITTLEWOODS, the pools to mail order company, yesterday revealed strong sales over Christmas, helped by a particularly strong performance by its Index catalogue shops.

Welsh Water lifts stake

WELSH WATER, which is challenging Ian Byatt, the water regulator, over his demands for a separate listing of the water business after a planned merger with South Wales Electricity, now controls 59 per cent of its bid target.

Microgen profits up 36%

MICROGEN Holdings, the specialist computer services company, reported a 36 per cent rise in profits to £8.4 million before tax in the year to October 31, on turnover of £69 million, up from £58.77 million.

McKechnie in US deal

McKECHNIE, the plastic and metals components group, continued its expansion into the US market with the purchase of Thompson, a wheel-trim manufacturer, for £32 million.

AT&T London move

AT&T, the US telephone company, has signed an interconnection agreement with City of London Telecommunications. Colt, as it is known, will provide AT&T with access to its fibre-optic network, which connects about 380 buildings in the City and Canary Wharf.

Eleco rights issue

ELECO HOLDINGS, the structural and engineered products company, is raising £2.09 million through a rights issue to reduce borrowings and to fund development.

Siebe sells filters arm

SIEBE, the diversified engineering group, has sold its British Filters business to Quinton Hazell, the European subsidiary of America's Echlin, for £4.8 million.

Matthew Clark buys

MATTHEW CLARK, the UK drinks company, has acquired Dunn & Moore, the Scottish delivered wholesale divisions of The Joseph Dunn Group, for up to £5.75 million.

TOURIST RATES

Table with columns for Bank, Rate, and Bank. Lists exchange rates for various countries including Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and USA.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR LICENCE TO THE CLERK OF THE LONDON AND WESTMINSTER DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX...

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986. LITTO LINK LIMITED. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY...

ATLANTIC SEAFARERS. Registered number 2748399. Trading Name: Atlantic Seafarers (UK) Limited...

NO. 006996 of 1996 IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE. CHANCERY DIVISION. IN THE MATTER OF THE FRAGRANCES PLC...

THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT is planning to construct a new slaughterhouse in area 23 of Sheung Shui...

THE CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE, set up by Winston Churchill as part of his war effort, is today celebrating not only its 55th birthday but its last.

Churchill's brainchild in birthday merger

THE Central Statistical Office, set up by Winston Churchill as part of his war effort, is today celebrating not only its 55th birthday but its last.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986. LITTO LINK LIMITED. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY...

INSOLVENCY RULES 1986. RULE 4.10(6)(1). NEW CENTURY VENTURES HOLDINGS LIMITED...

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INSOLVENCY RULES 1986. RULE 4.10(6)(1). NEW CENTURY VENTURES HOLDINGS LIMITED...

Advertisement for 'We're famous for our facilities' featuring a phone number 01202 456400 and listing services like conferences, exhibitions, seminars, and meetings.



STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

Shares driven higher by scent of cheaper money

SHARE prices and Government bonds were driven sharply higher as City investors caught the scent of cheaper money. Gilts soared around £4 and the FT-SE 100 index enjoyed its best one-day performance for three months. Hopes are high that today's monthly economic meeting between Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, will signal a further cut in rates.



Share rise: Farepak's management enjoying better fortune

Pressure is also growing for a cut in European interest rates, with the Germans reducing their Repo rate yesterday. It follows a reduction in the French intervention rate last week. Hans Tietmeyer, head of the Bundesbank, went on television yesterday to confirm that there was further scope for a cut in German rates. The Bundesbank meets again tomorrow having trimmed a half-point from its Lombard and Discount rates on December 14.

Expect some nervousness in British Aerospace shares after yesterday's announcement that the proposed £200 million flotation of Peoples Phone had been postponed owing to lack of interest. Bae and its partner Hutchison Whampoa are expected to float-off Orange. Their mobile phone network operator.

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week trial period to assess the treatment regime and provide drug efficacy evidence. Further trials covering a larger number of patients are due later this year. Farepak rose 3p to 284p after reducing first-half pre-tax losses from £1.79 million to £364,000. The group was optimistic about prospects for the second half. A disappointing set of half-year figures from Remy Cointreau, the French champagne and brandy producer, turned out to be bad news for its 20 per cent shareholder Highland Distilleries. Highland, which produces the Famous Grouse brand of whisky, finished the session 4p lower at 326p, after briefly touching 317p, as it emerged that Remy was trying to reduce debts of £18 billion and convert a further £836 million of bonds into shares.

Plans to shed 1,600 jobs at its Scottish Grouse division as part of a major restructuring plan left Scottish & Newcastle 1p easier at 608p. The move will result in the closure of its brewing and packaging operations at Halifax, West Yorkshire, and Nottingham before October, with production concentrated at its seven other breweries. The group said the job losses were necessary if its restructuring plans were to succeed. LONDON LISTED: London ended this week's gains as bond markets round the world sported sharp rises in the growing hope of cheaper money, an expectation confirmed by the Bundesbank yesterday. It was the future that led the cash market higher with traders reporting heavy turnover as the March series of the long gilt climbed £27.32 to £111.79/32. By the close a total of £89,000 contracts had been completed. In the cash market, benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2013 finished 5/4 higher at £103 5/8, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 rose 1/4 to £105 1/8. But index-linked issues underperformed at the prospect of a further slowdown in inflation with gains limited to 2 1/8. NEW YORK: Shares were mixed at midday as investors remained nervous about the budget and greeted the fourth-quarter earnings season with caution. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 5.78 to 5,049.50.

There is now less than a

MAJOR INDICES

Table of major stock indices including New York (midday), Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London, and various regional indices.

RECENT ISSUES

Table of recent stock issues including Century Inns, Cox Insurance, Crown Products, Dmair, and others.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table of rights issues including Persons n/p (225), Ransomes n/p (48), and others.

MAJOR CHANGES

Table of major stock price changes including RISES, FALLS, and other market movements.

TEMPUS Slimming down at S&N

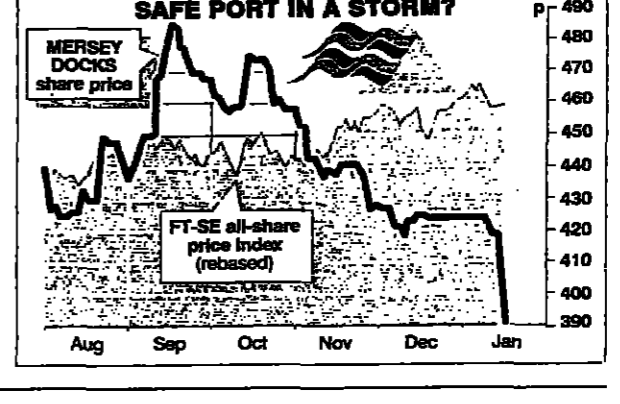
THE creation of the country's largest brewer in a sector as flat as a leftover pint was bound to lead to rationalisation on a big scale. The shake-up at Scottish & Newcastle came a little later than anticipated but offered few other surprises. Scottish expects to make cost savings of £75 million a year after shelling out an initial £50 million on the restructuring exercise. The company claims the review is now complete, but this mature industry has developed a paunch and it remains to be seen how much further it needs to reduce capacity. Scottish has already taken firm steps with a reduction in the brewing staff of more than 20 per cent. Cost cutting alone will not propel the business into significant growth. Other large brewers have expanded into leisure operations such as hotels and gambling. Although

Scottish & Newcastle takes in Center Parks and Pontins, it remains the most ardent supporter of brewing. Having chosen that path, the company is under increased pressure to come up with new products. Its rivals - such as Bass - have found money spinners with innovations such as alcoholic lemonade, and S&N needs to find similar products to capture the imagination. Alcoholic soft drinks are controversial but they have breathed new life into the drinks market. S&N bought well with Courage. The John Smith's brand, which formed part of the package, has performed creditably but S&N's traditional brews suffered marginal decline in the last set of results. The company has a hard battle ahead, and the last budget did no favours to an industry inundated with cheap imports.

Mersey Docks

RECENT events in the Port of Liverpool suggest that Mersey Docks & Harbour Company has been caught in a time warp. Unfortunately, the unofficial strike at the docks is very real and there is no doubt that the company will suffer some loss of profit from up to six weeks of disruption. The dispute says more about the scars of the past than the present. The 300 striking Mersey Docks employees have clearly deluded themselves into believing they could force the company to employ 80 workers who lost jobs in a company with no connection to Mersey Docks. The National Dock Labour Scheme once imposed such an obligation and almost killed off the port. Ironically, Mersey Docks could ultimately profit from

the misguided loyalties of the strikers. Having sacked some 300 workers, it has replaced them with a labour force provided by sub-contractors. These are achieving 30-50 per cent productivity improvements on their predecessors. A quick end to the dispute would make Mersey shares a bargain. The company claims the

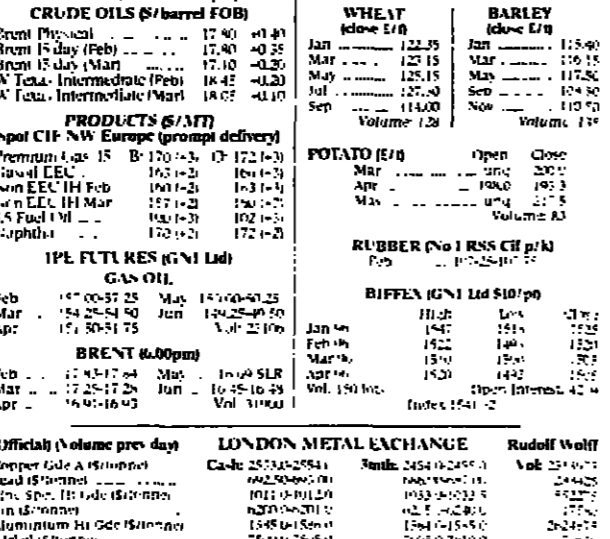


Zeneca

INVESTORS would be unwise to hold on to their Zeneca shares in the hope that someone will bid for them at a healthy premium. The drugs and agrochemicals group is more prepared than target, and if Zeneca does buy, its shares will come under pressure. Nevertheless, speculation that Swiss drug companies are raising sterling funds has sent Zeneca stock climbing again. The company is not takeover proof, but presents formidable obstacles to a potential predator. It is not a pure drugs play; sales of agrochemicals and specialty chemicals outsell pharmaceuticals by a significant margin. A buyer more interested in cancer drugs than sugar herbicides would have to sell the bulk of the company, and risk doing so at a discount. Zeneca is a tightly run operation with few opportunities to cut costs. Price is the biggest obsta-

Unfortunately, the market takes a more prosaic view. The new chief executive's last brush with the quoted sector was with Warringtons, a quoted property group which ultimately failed. In a rising market, Southend shares responded to the reverse takeover by losing ground. The new team hopes to sell off a large portion of the company's unproductive assets and increase occupancy rates, but buyers will be thin on the ground for properties yielding less than 7 per cent in this market. With few signs of good rental growth emerging to boost values, the quoted property share market needs corporate activity to lift it out of the doldrums. Ironically, Southend has been unofficially seeking a buyer for almost a year, but the management and their backers, Rothschild and British Land, may have to wait longer for a return.

ZENECA: SHARES SOAR ON REVIVED SPECULATION



COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE, CRUDE OILS, and various agricultural products.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures including FT-SE 100, FT-SE 250, and various interest rate futures.

MONEY RATES (%)

Table of money rates for various banks and currencies, including Prime Bank Bills, Sterling Money Rates, and others.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table of European money deposits for various currencies and terms, including Dollar, Deutsche Mark, and Swiss Franc.

FT-SE VOLUMES

Table of FT-SE 100 trading volumes for various sectors and individual stocks.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co.)

Table of gold and precious metal prices including Bullion, Platinum, Silver, and Palladium.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of sterling spot and forward rates for various currencies and terms.

WALL STREET

Table of Wall Street market data including major indices and individual stock prices.

OTHER STERLING

Table of other sterling market data including Argentina peso, Brazil real, and various international currencies.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Paradise postponed

A CRUMB of comfort for the creditors of Rom Data Corporation, the failed West Country computer firm being investigated by the Serious Fraud Office and Devon and Cornwall police...

It's not the first time that Dawson has had such literary ambitions. In the early 1980s, after John Dawson Motor (Holdings) collapsed with business and personal debts of nearly £2 million...

Smoked fare

LUNCHEON was rudely interrupted at Simpson's of Cornhill in the City yesterday when fire broke out in the chimney of the 1767 building at 2.10pm...



Audit demon

COOPERS & Lybrand's chosen pantomime this year, at The Mermaid theatre until Saturday, is Mother Goose...

WHAT'S in a name? The Granada offshoot that yesterday mopped up Forte shares is called Altiqnet Trading.

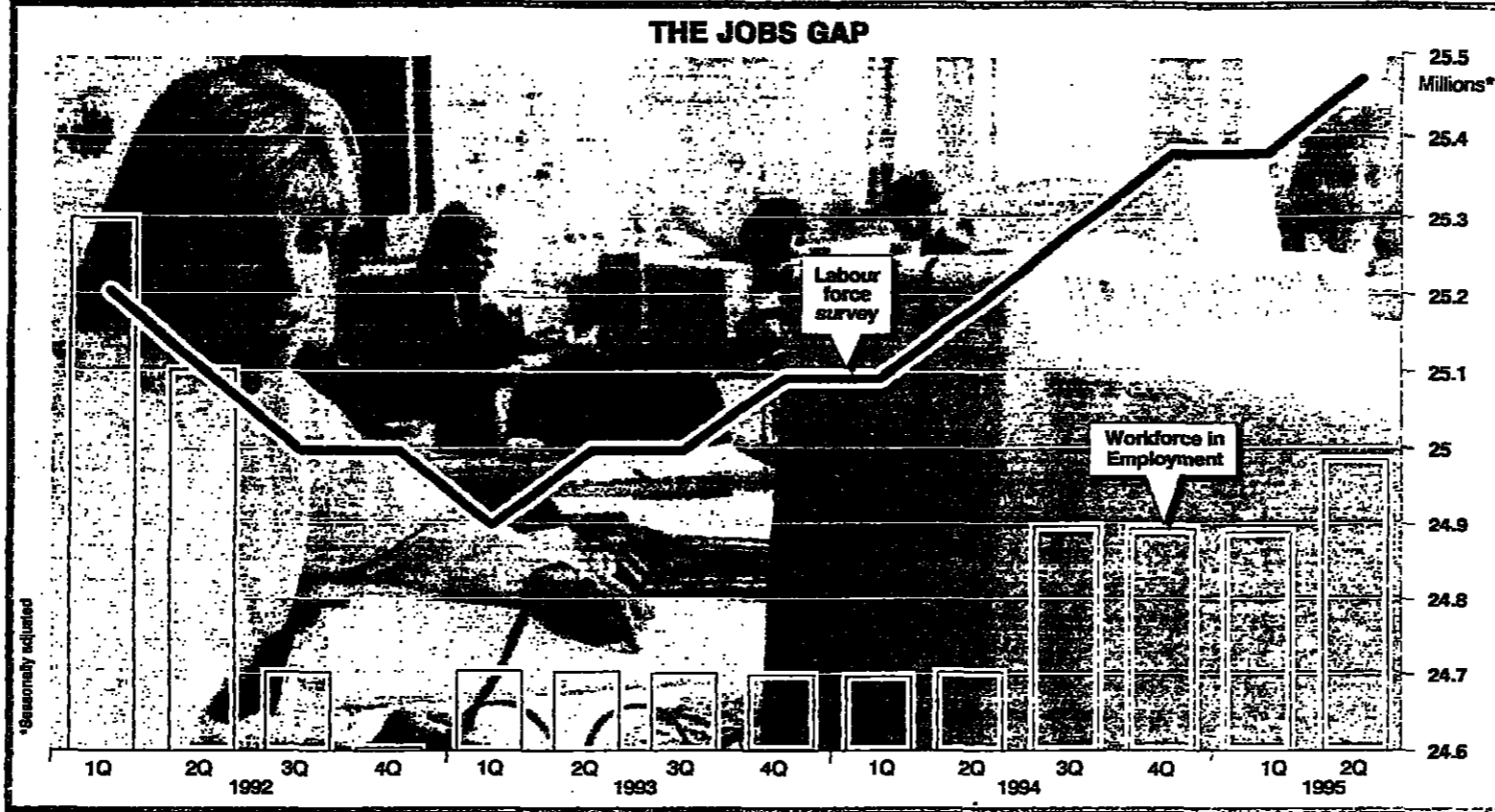
Team deal

FURTHER to a City Diary alert last August 10 about drumbeats at Hambros comes news that RBC Dominion Securities, the Royal Bank of Canada's investment banking arm...

Thin cats

WHILE the debate in Britain about a minimum wage rages on, an advert in the Financial Times proclaims that a Kazakhstani company has premises available and is able to attract workers of different professions and qualifications...

COLIN CAMPBELL



Will Britain's workforce ever stand up and be counted?

Philip Bassett examines the exasperating problem of conflicting employment figures

How many people work in Britain? Even leaving aside the uncountable numbers working in the unofficial economy, the Government does not know...

Just as unemployment is tracked by both the monthly claimant count and the quarterly LFS — the CSO expects by the end of this month to have before it a report recommending the shift to a monthly LFS...

sharply. Individuals were claiming to be in work, but employers said they were not.

Such a divergence spelt problems for the Government. In terms of a recovery from the recession of the early 1990s, the LFS told the better story. But it is the WIE which is the principal measure of jobs, used for calculating GDP output and in the national accounts.

Michael Portillo, the then Employment Secretary, now at Defence, asked his statisticians to tell him what was causing the jobs gap and how could it be bridged. He was clearly irritated when The Times revealed that the study was likely to prove as much of a problem for ministers than a solution...



Eric Forth: sceptical

But Labour figures like Michael Meacher, the Shadow Employment Secretary, believe the LFS gets nearer than the claimant count to a real measure of unemployment in Britain today.

During the 1980s, the Government's two measures of employment showed broadly similar trends. But in the summer of 1992, they began to diverge and seemed to start telling different stories. The main graphic shows the developing jobs gap. According to the WIE, there are 25 million people in work. The LFS, however, says there are half a million more in work.

In 1992, employers in the WIE series said that their employee numbers were falling — an idea reinforced by every large-scale business survey and opinion poll. The WIE numbers bumped along the bottom, only starting to pick up when 18 months of falling unemployment started to feed through into job growth. But at the same time, the LFS figures, as the graphic shows, took a much less severe drop and then started to climb earlier and more

the study. After careful factoring and revisions to the figures, it showed that there still remains what it calls an "unexplained gap" of 500,000 people between the LFS and WIE figures.

Not only is the gap "unexplained", it is now larger than when the problem was first identified and the study commissioned, clearly reflecting job growth but showing equally clearly that the gap shows no sign of going away.

Using government figures, The Times today presents computer analyses of the most recent comparable WIE and LFS job figures. The different bases of the two sets of figures means that their actual numbers will not be the same, but if they are in any way telling consistent stories, the direction

of growth or decline should be broadly in line.

In fact, The Times analysis of the figures over a year to last summer shows that in many cases they are not. The LFS, for instance, shows employment up by 1.2 per cent. WIE figures show a fall of 0.4 per cent. Male employment is rising twice as fast in the LFS than in the WIE, while part-time work is increasing twice as rapidly in the WIE measure compared with the LFS.

LFS employment in the West Midlands is falling, but rising in the WIE, while the reverse is the case in Scotland. Employment in the East Midlands and Yorkshire is going up twice as quickly in the LFS than in the WIE, and the other way round in the North and East Anglia.

Some trends do tally: both sets of data show broadly similar employment growth in manufacturing and the service sector. For instance, in the South East and Greater London, and among women. But the divergence in details of the two measures confirms the Government's conclusion of an "unexplained gap", and in spite of officials' overall preference for the LFS, there is nothing to suggest that one series is more reliable than the other.

Despite the obvious often poured on their heads, especially over job and jobless figures, Whitehall's statisticians are concerned that the data they supply is as good as it can be, and the unexplained gap is a worry. In an effort to find answers, they are now to talk to their opposite numbers in other countries to try to see if the common practice of two different measures is producing similar conundrums elsewhere.

Whether or not the gap is bridgeable remains to be seen. But its confirmation suggests two inescapable conclusions. Firstly, that in spite of the extensive scrutiny applied to it by way of statistics, the UK labour market remains a complex and protean entity, hard to track and hard to explain.

Secondly, as the on-the-ground experiences of people looking for work and the feelings of job insecurity of those in employment tend to confirm, claims by politicians of any stripe of their ability to create jobs, or of their success in doing so, needs to be treated with considerable caution.

Rachel Bridge reports on the long road to Olympic readiness

Sydney starts countdown to 2000

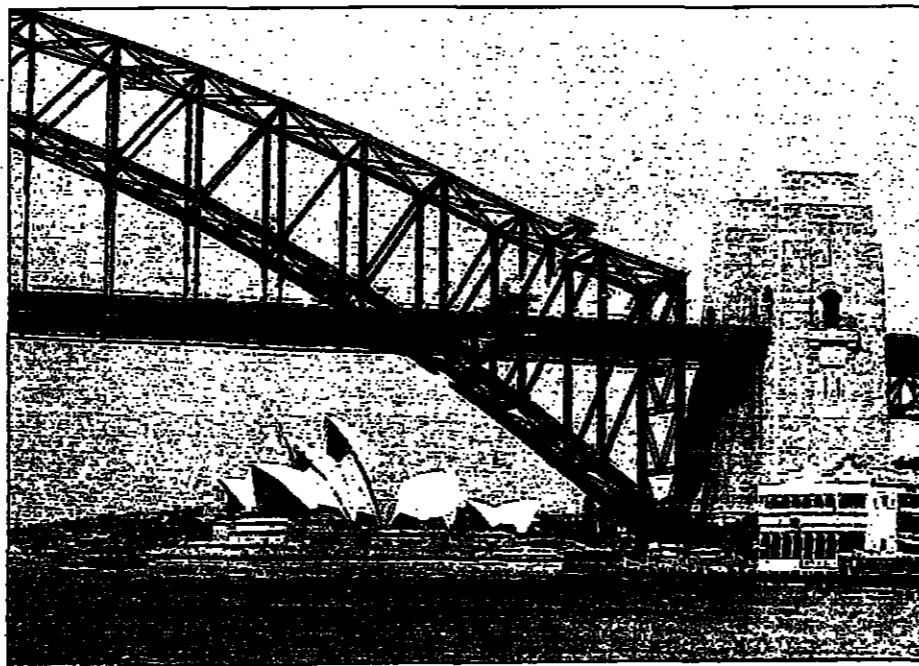
While Atlanta prepares to take the world stage as host of the 1996 Olympic Games, Australia is preparing for its own moment of glory — the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

According to Olympic protocol, this year is the earliest that Australia can begin the hard sell of its Games, and deep in the heart of Sydney's business district a team of five is putting the finishing touches to a marketing plan they hope will bring in more than A\$1.8 billion (£864 million) in sponsorship deals and licensing agreements over the next year.

The Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games — SOCOG — has already managed to sell the Australian television rights to the Games for \$45 million to Australia's Channel Seven and the US television rights to NBC for \$715 million, both figures far in excess of what they had budgeted. They have also signed up IBM and Telstra, Australia's telecoms giant, to be key sponsors of the games in a A\$100 million deal.

European broadcasting rights are currently the subject of negotiation, with a consortium backed by The News Corporation, parent company of The Times, submitting a bid worth more than \$2 billion for the winter and summer Olympics between 2000 and 2008.

Sydney's challenge for this year is to find a further ten national sponsors from areas



Sydney sights: a picture-postcard view that the Games will help to popularise even more

such as banking and car manufacturing, who are prepared to put up A\$400 million for the event, the commission expects the interest it generates to help to boost the number of international visitors from the current 3.5 million a year to 6.3 million by 2000, and 7.6 million by 2003.

A spokeswoman says: "We think that the Olympics is going to be a tremendous drawcard. It will be one of the most watched events ever. It's a chance to get into between

three billion and four billion people's homes and show them pictures of Australia."

Tony Thirlwell, chief executive of Tourism New South Wales, says that winning the Olympic bid has already given a huge boost to the lucrative business conference and convention market: "International associations feel confident about choosing Sydney now because it has got the endorsement of the International Olympic Committee."



ANTHONY HARRIS

German wage push causes Eurosclerosis

Why is the German economy so alarmingly weak? Convention blames the Bundesbank (Anatole Kaletsky concurring), but is this the whole story? A rising exchange rate is not the only way to undermine competitiveness; excessive wage increases are just as deadly, as we once learned; and that is where Günter Rexrodt, the German Economics Minister, puts half the blame. Last year, the German unions secured high settlements, including some multi-year deals which will knock out into 1996 and even 1997. They are also demanding job protection and job creation. Employers look at weak orders, and business surveys show them wringing their hands.

As married readers know, quarrels between partners can be the hardest to resolve. You can't get away from each other, but any central bank would be afraid to try except during a deep recession; and the Bundesbank is hardly known for bold inflationary risks. It seems likely that Buha and its fan club are condemned to overvalued currencies until the EMU recession gets much worse. This is not, of course, a German or EU forecast; but London is not the only place where official forecasters go in for wishful thinking.

All this might still be shrugged off as an awkward corner in European history if the cause was seen as strictly temporary; a trade union reaction to recent rapid growth, or to the one-off costs of German reunification. But this looks like more wishful thinking. The plain fact is that German unions resist any cut in real wages — which is, after all, their job. Recently, it was solidarity costs; but look ahead, and Tiggers, not to mention the rising burden of German pensions, loom ever larger.

It will take a new German miracle to adjust to all this without a deep recession. No more glad, confident morning; domestic management is a blinding headache. All this, and EMU too? No wonder that more and more Bundesbank officials, and German voters, are saying "Nein". Not to mention the French unemployed.

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BUSINESS LETTERS

Policyholders should not be made to pay for 'sins' of the life offices

From S. L. Smaller

Sir, I was concerned to read that payouts under with-profits life and pension policies are being frozen or reduced as compared with similar policies maturing a year ago, despite the substantial increase in equity values over the last 12 months.

The reasons offered for this anomalous situation range from over-declaration in past years to the effect of smoothing results to avoid volatility in payouts.

Bonuses under with-profit policies depend primarily on the returns of the funds in which premiums are invested, of which equities form a substantial component. Policyholders have a right to expect fair returns that broadly reflect the results of such

investments; indeed their reasonable expectations are enshrined in legislation.

Equity in bonus declaration is a fundamental principle and smoothing is intended to soften the peaks and troughs of stock market movements and not to invert them.

To expect policies maturing now to pay the cost of excessive distributions in the late 1980s when year-on-year increases sometimes exceeded 20% (so much for smoothing) is inequitable and gives policyholders little confidence in the fairness of bonus distribution.

Yours faithfully S. L. SMALLER "Coramandel" The Close Ifford Billingshurst West Sussex.

Too early to form a view on bid for Forte

From The Viscount Thurso

Sir, Your article headlined "Wontners back Forte" (January 11) misrepresents some of my comments to your correspondent.

Mr Reguly asked me if he could quote me as stating the Wontner interests viewed the bid for Forte "positively". I denied this request stating that whilst they were "sympathetic" they could not possibly form a view at this stage since no details had been communi-

cated to any shareholder. The general thrust of my comments was that the views of the Wontner interest and charitable trust remained unchanged, and therefore recent press speculation was inaccurate.

In the light of the above, I trust that you will put the record straight.

Yours sincerely, THE VISCOUNT THURSO, Office of The Viscount Thurso, Fitness and Leisure Holdings, New Court, Wigginton, Hertfordshire.

Table of unit trust prices for various funds including ASIA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TRUST, GARDENIA UNIT TRUST, and others. Columns include fund name, price, and change.

Table of unit trust prices for various funds including FRANKFONTER UNIT TRUST, GARDENIA UNIT TRUST, and others. Columns include fund name, price, and change.

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TESSA ACTION PACK advertisement. Text: 'If you have a maturing TESSA, or you wish to take out a new TESSA, this is essential reading: best tessa rates, what are the alternatives? how to make your decision step by step guide. For a FREE copy of the TESSA action pack, phone FREE on 0800 850 661. Hargreaves Lansdown.' Includes contact information for Hargreaves Lansdown.

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page: '150 من الأمان'.

Gilts and equities sharply higher

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table with columns: TSE 100, High, Low, Change, % Chg, P/E. Includes sub-sections: BANKS, BREWERIES, BUILDING & CONSTRUCT, BUILDING MATERIALS, BUSINESS SERVICES, CHEMICALS, DISTRIBUTORS, DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, ENGINEERING, ENGINEERING VEHICLES, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MEDIA, MINING, OIL & GAS, OTHER FINANCIAL, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS FOOD, RETAILERS GENERAL, SPIRITS, WINES & CIDERS, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TEXTILES & APPAREL, TRANSPORT, WATER.

Table with columns: TSE 100, High, Low, Change, % Chg, P/E. Lists various companies and their stock prices.

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Table with columns: TSE 100, High, Low, Change, % Chg, P/E. Lists various companies and their stock prices, including sub-sections: PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS FOOD, RETAILERS GENERAL, SPIRITS, WINES & CIDERS, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TEXTILES & APPAREL, TRANSPORT, WATER.

Age analysis... N... storm?

APC 1111

Source: First... A 100% price... Complete list on page 28.

Rachel Kelly studies the difference between dreams and reality when taking on a listed house in need of repair



Moretons Cottage, Winterborne Whitechurch, Dorset. A late 18th or early 19th-century thatched flint and brick cottage in a poor state with an unstable thatched roof.



Walford House, Drayton Road, Hodnet, Shropshire. The early three-story 19th-century brick house has a plain tile roof, four sash windows on the first and second floors, a double shopfront on the ground floor.



Monmouth House, Cork Street, Frome, Somerset. This 18th-century town house in Frome's town centre has a pedimented central front door, a tiled mansard roof and one-and-a-half adjoining acres earmarked for development.

Do you really want to stop the rot?

There are few more soothing, sleep-inducing pastimes than imagining how one might restore a romantic ruin to its former glory - dreams of resown lawns and re-rendered cottages for that old thatched cottage at the end of the lane. The good life beckons.

Those wishing to convert dreams into reality should peruse One Damned Building After Another, the latest catalogue of historic buildings in urgent need of repair from the conservation group Save Britain's Heritage.

This year's report is the seventh in a series from Save. All chant a familiar litany: the risks that face more than 100,000 historic buildings.

English Heritage, a quango, estimates that 7 per cent of listed buildings are officially at risk in England, which is some 37,000 buildings. A further 14 per cent, 73,000 buildings, are vulnerable.

Save has selected 130 to feature in its report. Details come largely from the conservation officers in local authorities who have spotted a rotting building and tried to contact its owners, often without success. A would-be buyer would

have to take up the challenge. Councils can serve a repairs notice, then a compulsory purchase order and take ownership of the building. In the past, councils often quailed at the prospect and would rather have the building collapse.

Councils are less scared now, says Jessica Pocock, author of the report. They know that through our reports they have a number of contacts who have pledged their interest in buying the building on from the council, in what is known as a 'back-to-back' deal.

Some owners have also put their buildings in the catalogue. "Hitherto, these owners had not considered putting the buildings on the market, perhaps considering them worthless except as development sites," Ms Pocock says. Owners who have rural buildings, perhaps on an estate, are realising that they could arrange a long repairing lease with a new buyer, thereby keeping the building in their ownership while seeing it repaired.

Enlightened estate agents and members of the public are also sending cases to Save to include. "Such people are invaluable," Ms Pocock says. "There are still black spots where councils simply do not care or will not help."

So should you try to buy a wreck? Dreams should be swiftly swapped for reality, says Emma Phillips, the secretary of Save. The first problem could well be persuading the owner to sell. "Often these buildings are derelict through the owners' neglect, or are the victims of unscrupulous attempts to get profitable planning permissions for demolition or grants for repair."

Getting a realistic valuation may prove tricky if the owner is recalcitrant about selling. The council could prove your ally, Ms Phillips says. "It could use its powers to serve repairs notices with the threat of compulsory purchase."

Those whose fancy is not tickled by any houses in the Save report could directly contact English county councils who have their own lists of buildings at risk which they sell to the public, or the Scottish Civic Trust which runs a brilliant database in Scotland.

First buy your house. Then English Heritage, the Victorian Society and the Georgian Group will all help with advice on restoration. As they are the statutory consultants on all applications for listed buildings, your proposals will by law be submitted to them

anyway. Better to liaise with the council's conservation officer than cause friction. If you can, secure a Government grant. The best place to get an improvement grant is Wales. English Heritage will almost never grant aid to a building unless it has approved the work and the building is Grade II* or Grade I. But the same body in Wales, Cadw, has the discretionary right to commit grant money for repairs to buildings in conservation areas and in any of the three grades of listing.

Local councils will sometimes have conservation area grants or home improvement grants for windows or for roof lagging as part of energy conservation. However, UPVC windows will probably never get past the scrutiny of the building conservation officer, however much they may save on the heating bill.

One Damned Building After Another by Jessica Pocock £10.95 inc. P&H from Save Britain's Heritage, 68 Battersea High Street, London SW11 3HX 0171-228 3336. English Heritage 0171-973 3000; The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings 0171-357 1720; The Victorian Society 0181-994 1019.

From a hall with gargoyles to a home

RICHARD DAJCZAR and his wife Denise bought Leighton Hall, near the market town of Welshpool and 25 miles from Shrewsbury on the border of Shropshire and Powys in November last year for £190,000. The Grade II* listed hall, its church and estate were built for John Naylor, the High Sheriff and true Victorian tycoon, between 1850 and 1856 at vast cost and on a massive scale.

The hall was built with a view of castellations, towers, gargoyles and mullioned windows. The interior was decorated by J. G. Grace to Pugin's designs, now in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. The gardens were set out in 1860 by Edward Kemp, a pupil of Paxton, and ranged from formal to woodland, linked by a series of pools and bridges.

The estate was broken up before the First World War and remained largely unused until the early 1960s when it was briefly used as a school. Since then, although permission was granted for its conversion to offices, museum and arts centre in 1985 and 1994, it has stood neglected. Mr Dajczar, a metal broker, and his wife bought the house from a bank which had repossessed the property from a businessman.

Restoration work is in progress. Dry rot has been rectified, roofs repaired, windows mended, and £10,000 spent. Why bother? "I think it's because it's very rewarding to think that you'll leave something after you die," says Mr Dajczar. "We hope the house will still be standing in a few hundred years time."

HE CAUTIONS that although he was offered a 20 per cent grant on emergency repair work, by the time the grant had been applied for and agreed to, the work had to begin if the house was not to collapse altogether. Mr Dajczar says that the experi-

ence will not stop him applying for grants in the future. He hopes to convert the 35-room house into two large family flats, one for him and his wife and the other for his business partner, Graham Meigh. "It is hard work. It's a form of therapy; some people play golf. I restore houses." And the property is bulging with history. "The first American redwoods were planted here." His main advice? "Get two surveys. One will spot problems that the other one hasn't."

THE TIMES TRAVEL OFFERS ITALIAN CITY BREAKS A WEEKEND IN FLORENCE 3 NIGHTS FROM JUST £259 DEPARTURES IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH 1996. Stretching along the banks of the River Arno and overlooked by the Tuscan hills, Florence offers a wealth of architecture from the Renaissance period. Visit the Uffizi Gallery and many other museums which display masterpieces by da Vinci, Michelangelo and Botticelli. Alternatively, cross the ancient Ponte Vecchio and explore the most authentic quarter of this city or relax and browse through the many shops and boutiques around the piazzas. Optional excursions take you through the Tuscan countryside and Chianti vineyards to medieval Siena and San Gimignano.

Real estate advertisements including BELGRAVIA & KNIGHTSBRIDGE, CHELSEA & KENSINGTON, CITY & WEST END, MAYFAIR, NORTH OF THE THAMES, TARDIS-SW6, BEDFORD PARK, CHELSEA SW6, HAMPTONS, JOHN PAWSON, DRAYTON GARDENS-SW10, SOUTH KENSINGTON, HOLLAND PARK, LONDON PROPERTY, DANIEL SMITH Chartered Surveyors, ST JOHN'S WOOD, SPRINGFIELD RD, CARLTON HILL, 25 St John's Wood Park, LONDON NWS 6QR. Also includes a 'DEPOSIT PROBLEM' advertisement on the right edge.

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page: 'سكوا من الامم'

صلاحتنا الاجل

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TRAFALGAR HOUSE EUROPE



FILM

British director Mike Figgis talks about his rise from Tyneside to Hollywood...



FILM

... and the chances of his latest movie, Leaving Las Vegas, sweeping the Oscars

THE TIMES ARTS



OPERA

Strong music, preposterous libretto: that's the verdict on Korngold's Die tote Stadt



TOMORROW

Our own opera double-bill: ENO's new studio explored, and the Royal Opera's Tippett on stage

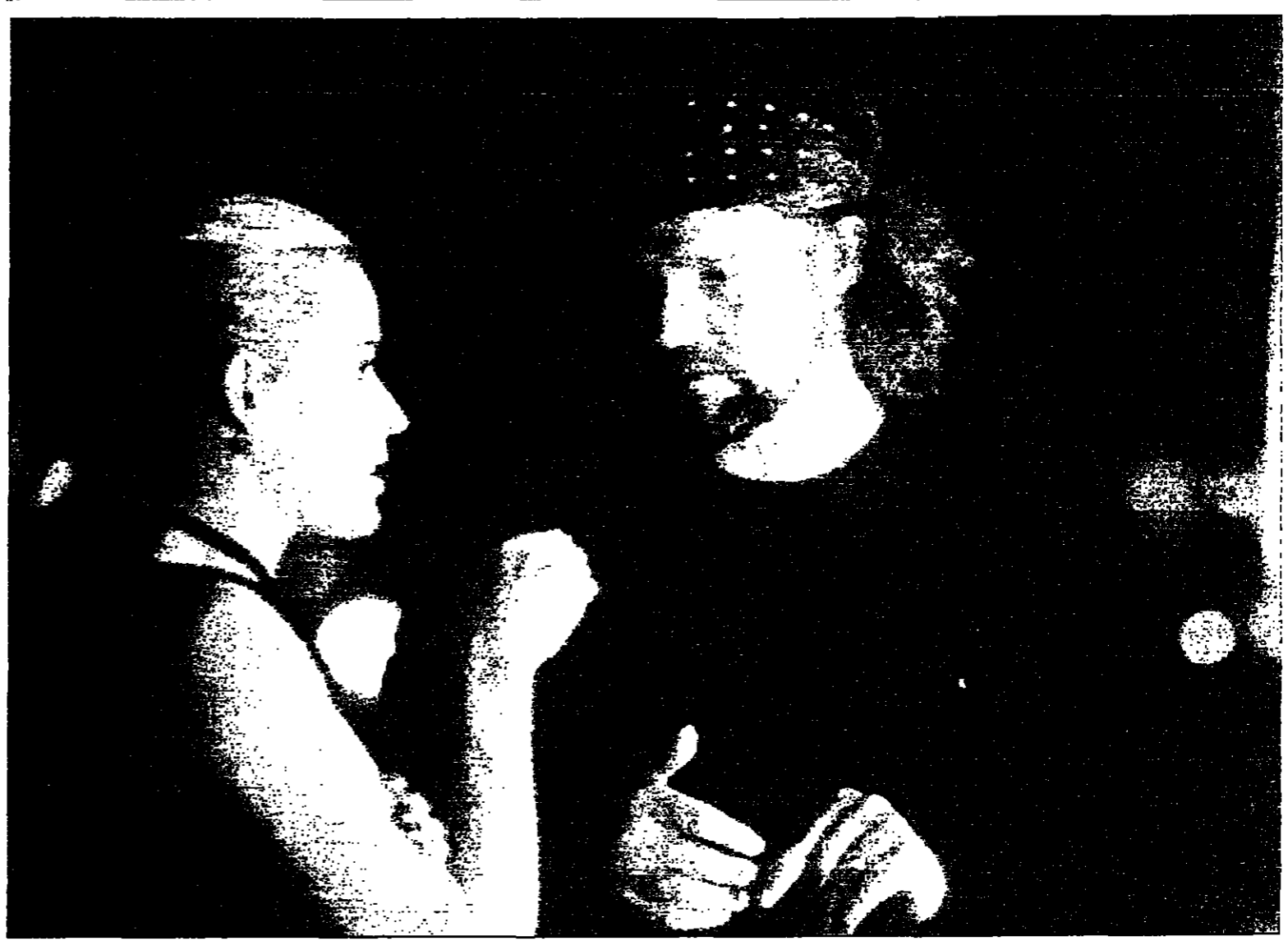
Death in Vegas raises hopes for the Oscars

For a man once rejected by the National Film School, the director Mike Figgis is not doing badly. His latest film, Leaving Las Vegas, which opens in Britain this week, has won a clutch of prestigious awards and nominations for Figgis and for his stars, Nicolas Cage and Elisabeth Shue. It was voted best film by the New York and Los Angeles film critics, and other accolades include three awards from the American National Society of Film Critics and four Golden Globe nominations, regarded as indications of likely Academy Awards. Although delighted by this acknowledgement of what he had expected to be no more than a modest festival and art-house success, Figgis is treating the possibility of Golden Globes and Oscars with the level-headed cool of his Newcastle upbringing. "It's an exciting event, as long as you can keep your perspective," he says. "I'll enjoy it, because if it wins that'll be terrific, if it loses it will have been interesting to take part in the race. And that's about it, really."

A Geordie made good directing in LA, Mike Figgis discusses his latest film with Carol Allen

Benidorm. It reeks of triple Macburgers and is full of the fastest people I've ever seen, feeding slot machines. Figgis was allowed only three nights filming in the city itself, with most of the shoot being done in Los Angeles. The worthy burghers of Las Vegas, keen on promoting their image as a family resort, didn't like his script, which is a one-line synopsis - an alcoholic goes to Las Vegas to drink himself to death and falls in love with a prostitute - sounds downbeat and sordid. And yet the effect is of a poetic and sometimes wryly amusing tragedy. "It's a tragic love story, which has all the characteristics of the sort of late 19th-century romantic novel that you would expect to be set in Moscow or Paris, or equally the best of American writing from the Twenties, with that sort of existential Hemingway or Fitzgerald kind of quality," says Figgis. "That's what I liked about the book." The book referred to is a novel by John O'Brien, "a serious alcoholic and a brilliant writer", according to Figgis, who went on the wagon to write what was effectively a fictionalisation of his

own life, then went back to the bottle once it was finished. He and Figgis never actually met - all negotiations were done through Figgis's friend, Stuart Regen, who first found the project. O'Brien agreed the script, signed the deal and two weeks later, as the film went into pre-production, he committed suicide. "It was as though his particular path had come to an end," says Figgis. One of the elements which is almost dangerously attractive in the main character is his total lack of self-pity. "He's very like a European character, whereas a typical American character these days would be full of remorse, self-awareness or whatever. He's not dissimilar to Albert Finney's character in The Browning Version. There's a sort of stoicism about him and I think stoicism is an immensely attractive characteristic. There's something very heroic and brave about it, the idea that you will deal with your own problems and not inflict them on other people." Yet another plus for the project in Figgis's eyes was that after a difficult experience making the big-budget Mr Jones, which dragged on for two-and-a-half years with lengthy reshoots, he was keen to get back to what he describes as a "low-budget, European-style project with a four-week shoot, shot on Super 16 with everyone working for minimum rates, which was the only way this was going to get made." Because of his theatrical background - ten years touring the UK as a member of the experimental company, The People Show - Figgis is



British director Mike Figgis rehearsing with Elisabeth Shue, who stars with Nicolas Cage in Leaving Las Vegas, which opens here this week

sympathetic to actors and has a reputation as an "actor's director". Nicolas Cage agreed to do the film whenever Figgis could set a start date for what was at that stage a no-budget film. Figgis got together the rest of his cast, and eventually raised his \$3.5 million budget not from Hollywood but from France. Before his People Show days Figgis trained as a musician. Sharing his father's passion for traditional jazz, his ambition at 16 was to play the trumpet like Louis Armstrong. He then moved into the rock'n'roll/blues band area, which included a short stint

playing with Bryan Ferry. He scored the music for Leaving Las Vegas himself, using a lot of 1930s and 1940s ballads, many of them voiced by fellow Geordie Sting, a friend since the singer starred in Figgis's first feature, Stormy Monday. "We recorded them all in his front room in an afternoon and he just gave them to me - that's about \$1.2 million worth of Sting if I were going shopping on the market!" Although he is now riding high, Figgis has had more than his share of disappointments and setbacks. Such as that fabled application to the National Film School.

"I'd thought I was the ideal student in that I'd done ten years as an actor, I'd directed, done lighting, props. I knew all of the nuts and bolts of practical theatre and wanted to go into film. I came up against this very hostile interviewing panel who I think were very nervous about the fact that I came from experimental theatre and possibly felt a little threatened by it." Rejected by the film school, Figgis started making short 16mm films which he incorporated into his theatre shows. Another disappointment was the reaction in the UK to Stormy Monday, made in 1988

when Figgis was 38. Set in Newcastle, it dealt with American big business trying to buy up the waterfront and many critics accused him of cynically creating an American story to get into Hollywood. "I was very hurt by that because I felt I'd made quite a gritty English thriller about what was actually happening at the time in northern cities like Newcastle and Liverpool." Stormy Monday was, however, better received in America, where two years later Figgis made his second feature, Internal Affairs, for which he says he fought three more experienced American

directors "tooth and nail". That film established his reputation but his later films, such as Kim Novak's comeback movie Liebestraum, Mr Jones and last year's remake of The Browning Version, have been coolly received, particularly in his own country. "Sometimes I've felt a bit lonely because of that. It's like when you have a child and you want your parents to like it. Although I've worked a lot in America, I've lived in north London for the last 20 years. But I sometimes wonder whether people here still know that I'm English."

JAZZ Killing them gently Fourth World Ronnie Scott's

ALTHOUGH singer Flora Purim warned us that, since Fourth World were just beginning their month-long residency at Ronnie Scott's, they would not reach "killing" form for another week, the band's overall approach is so effortless that such coaxing is simply not an option for them. Even the set-opener, a gentle, swaying duet between percussionist supreme Airta Moreira and guitarist Jose Neto, was surprisingly taut, and by the time the whole band was assembled with the arrival on stage of electric bassist Gary Brown and keyboard player Jovino Santos, they were immediately into their stride, dispensing their trademark mixture of jazz improvisation and Brazilian rhythm. The band's new CD, Encounters of the Fourth World, recorded live last February in Amsterdam, goes some way towards capturing the pep and vigour of their sound, and it was with the album's opening track, Burning Money, that

POP When a man loves... Percy Sledge Jazz Café, NW1

THE enduring emotional impact of his one Top 30 British hit - When a Man Loves a Woman reached No 4 on initial release in 1966, No 2 when reissued 21 years later - has entered Percy Sledge of a place in the collective consciousness, despite a low and at times almost horizontal profile. His version of the classic soul song has surfaced repeatedly on film soundtracks (The Big Chill and The Crying Game among them), provided the title for Andy Garcia and Meg Ryan's screen romance and has rarely been off the airwaves. Michael Bolton's overwrought cover version, a Grammy winner in 1992, helped show why Sledge's intimate, regretful tones, balanced against the trademark sound of Alabama's Muscle Shoals studios, achieved a simplicity and warmth beyond replication. Not a singer given to following musical trends, he has largely been ignored by record

OPERA Die tote Stadt Queen Elizabeth Hall

Symbolist novel and set in dank, decaying Bruges, the "dead city" of the title. Given an atmospheric staging, this tale of a bereaved Belgian's mental turmoil might make a powerful impression. But in concert, without benefit of scenic diversion, the performers have their work cut out. The conductor, Russell Keable, steered a reliable course through the dense and demanding score. Refinement may sometimes have been sacrificed to clarity, but this was preferable, on the whole, to wallowing in sumptuous sound. The young orchestra responded with robust, accomplished playing. Keable, however, might

BRITISH EXPLORERS discover lost city

PREMIERED simultaneously in Hamburg and Cologne in 1920, repeated soon after in Vienna and at the New York Met, Erich Wolfgang Korngold's Die tote Stadt has made sporadic appearances in European and American opera houses ever since. In Britain, however, it has had to wait until now for its first performance. Sunday's British premiere, a concert given by the ever-enterprising Kensington Symphony Orchestra as part of its fortieth anniversary season, made a strong case for the score. The compositional facility that had prompted Mahler to hail the ten-year-old Korngold as a genius is here deployed by the 23-year-old to

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Beardsley sets ambitious target
Newcastle stake
single-minded
claim for double

By Peter Ball and Russell Kempson

IN THE 1950s, the league and FA Cup double was regarded as almost impossible; nowadays talk of it is cheap, even before the third round of the Cup is complete.

Chelsea have appealed against the sending-off of Mark Hughes, for allegedly stamping on David Unsworth, in the 1-1 draw at Everton on Saturday.

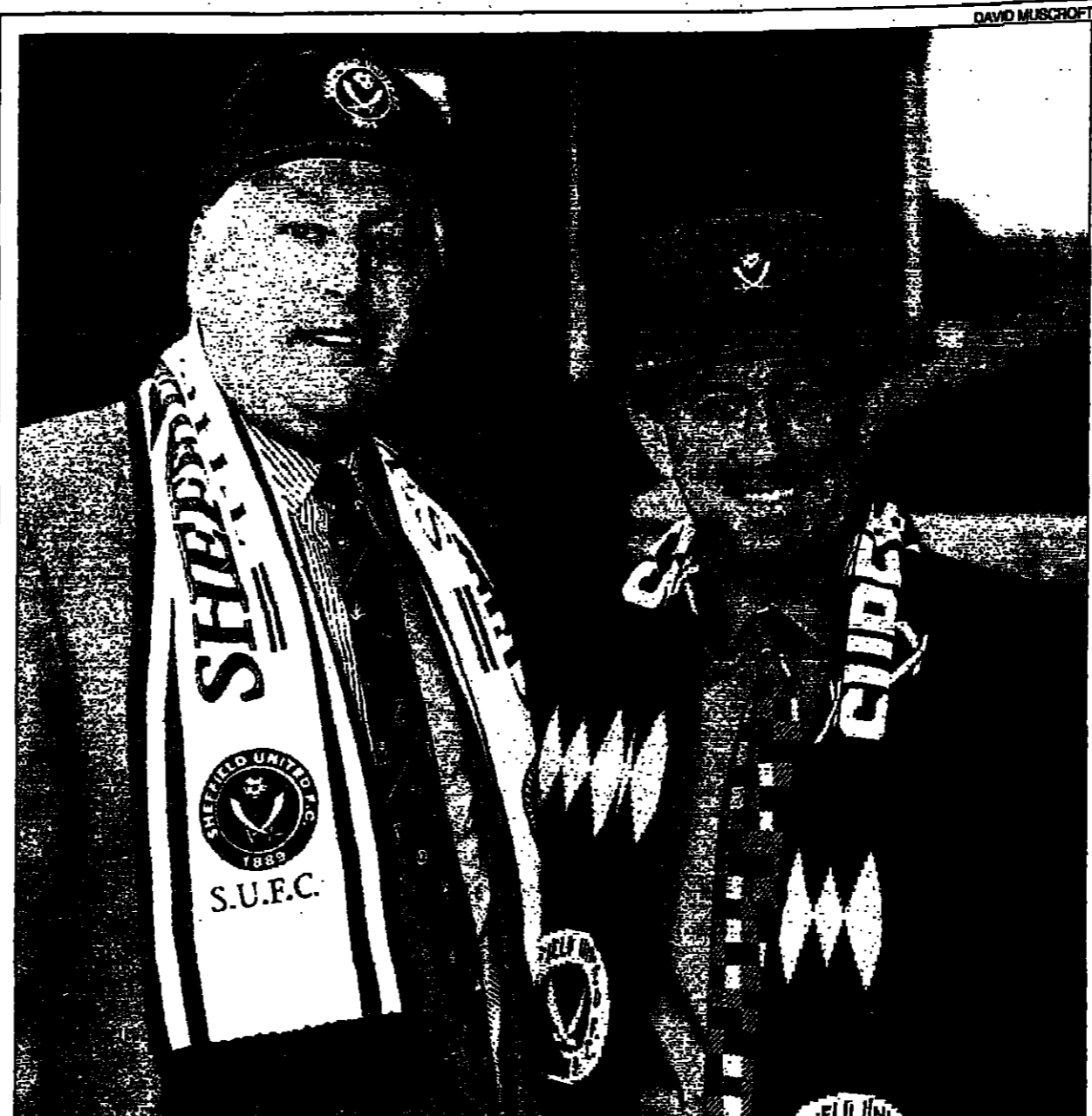
far more crucial to us." Freetown Kudus, the bull mascot of Hereford United, has been banned from parading before the replay against Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane tonight.

Cliftonville dread penalty prospect

By Russell Kempson

WEST Bromwich Albion can breathe easier again, their run of 11 successive defeats in the Endisleigh Insurance League first division having ended with a 0-0 draw against Wolverhampton Wanderers on Saturday.

bit of an optimist, but it's beginning to get to me, too." After a 2-2 draw against Carrick, in November, Cliftonville led slip a 2-0 lead in the shoot-out to lose 4-3. The decisive penalty from Marty Tabb, the captain, was last seen heading for the grounds of the nearby Carrick hospital.



Kendall, right, and McDonald, his new chairman, are relishing a brighter future for Sheffield United

Kendall returns to the spotlight

Peter Ball finds a familiar figure staging a revival before an FA Cup third-round replay

A week ago, Newcastle United found Arsenal too stern a test at Highbury in a cup-tie. Four days earlier, a team at the wrong end of the Endisleigh Insurance League first division had succeeded where the FA Cup Premier League leaders failed, drawing 1-1 in the third round of the FA Cup and generating the crowds that have quenched for tickets round Bramall Lane for the replay tonight.

up alongside most," he insisted. "The publicity puts a black mark there, so I've got to live with that." Yet among working English (as opposed to Scottish) managers, he still has the best credentials.

Van Vossen moves to Rangers in exchange deal

By Our Sports Staff

PETER VAN VOSSSEN, the Holland international, arrived in Glasgow yesterday to join Rangers and admit: "I'm so relieved to leave Turkey." Van Vossen has arrived in a straight swap deal that has taken Oleg Salenko, the Russian, to Ipswich.

Van Vossen, 27, who was transferred from Ajax to Istanbul last summer, can play wide on the left or through the middle. His arrival is another statement of intent from Rangers as they try to see off the challenge of Celtic, their arch-rivals, and win their eighth consecutive Scottish title.

Salenko, who scored a record five goals for Russia against Cameroon in the 1994 World Cup finals, was a £2.5 million purchase from Valencia, the Spanish club, last July. He scored eight times in 18 appearances for Rangers, but failed to settle in the team or in Scotland.

Hope soars as Olympic trial hot up

SHANNON HOPE, the captain, is certain that Great Britain's Olympic ice hockey squad can consolidate the lead in their qualifying group by coming through a difficult tie against Slovenia in Ljubljana tonight.

FOR THE RECORD

Table with columns for BASKETBALL, BOWLS, RUGBY FIVES, FOOTBALL, and CRICKET, listing various sports events and results.

TENNIS

Table listing tennis matches and results, including Wimbledon and other tournaments.

SOFTBALL

Table listing softball matches and results.

OTHER SPORT

Table listing other sports events like basketball, badminton, and table tennis.

Wigan in need of stronger challenge

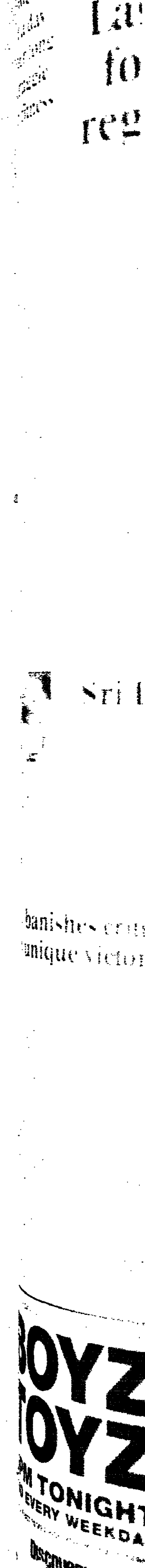
FOR all Wigan's achievement in winning the centenary season double, the cream provided by the Super League is the spur in rugby league's 101st year.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table listing today's sports fixtures across various leagues and sports.

OTHER SPORT

Table listing other sports fixtures including basketball, badminton, and table tennis.

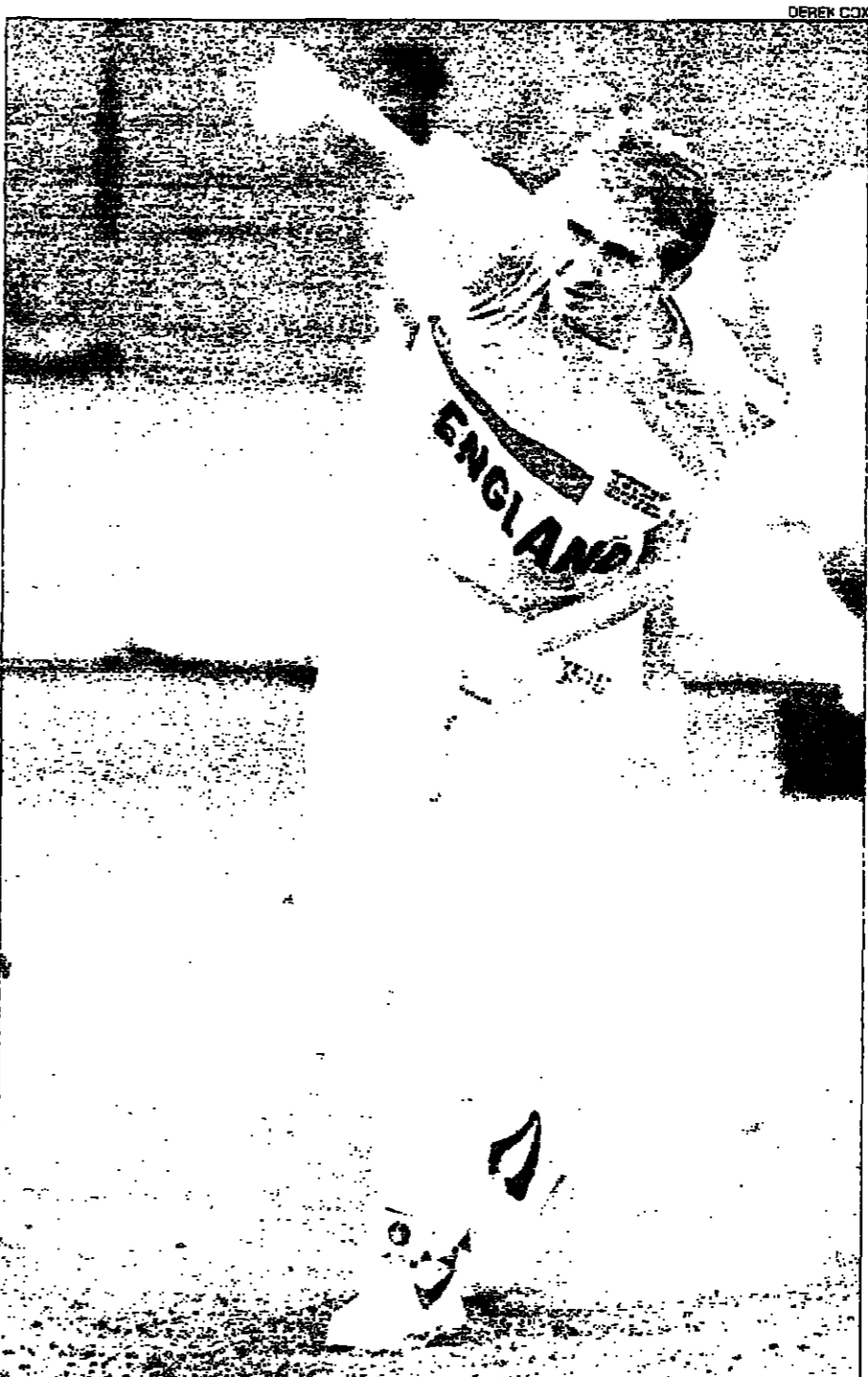


Crowe calls it a day after long struggle for fitness

MARTIN CROWE, New Zealand's leading Test batsman, yesterday announced his retirement... Crowe called it a day after a long and painful struggle for fitness...

Warwickshire players likely to be discarded from World Cup party Last opportunity for England to regain credibility

FROM SIMON WILDE IN DURBAN... The time for laxity and losing has run out. If England are not to go to the World Cup in three weeks' time demoralised by defeat and unsettled as a team...



Cork was concentrating on improved accuracy at net practice yesterday

Swiss pair celebrate success in slalom

A FOURTH World Cup giant slalom victory of the season enabled Michael Von Grunigen to complete a Swiss skiing double in front of home supporters at Adlonboden yesterday...

Ebdon advances

Snooker: Peter Ebdon joined Steve Davis in the semi-finals of the Guangzhou Masters in China yesterday... Ebdon defeated a home player, Yao Tan...

Sevens conflict

Rugby: While rugby union in England remains at odds over professionalism, the Rugby Football League (RFL) sees conflict with an invitation to the Middlesex Sevens on May 11...

Syed suffers

Table tennis: Matthew Syed, who narrowly failed to win an Olympic place at the qualifying event in Manchester last weekend, has pulled out of the European Nations' Cup in Germany on Friday because he is "emotionally exhausted"...

Potts dies

Football: Harry Potts, who spent 13 years as a player with Burnley and then brought the league title to Turf Moor in 1959-60, the first of two spells as manager, died yesterday, aged 75.

Checking out

Cricket: Simon Kellett, 28, the former Yorkshire batsman, has turned down the chance to sign for Sussex and joined the Costco supermarket chain instead.



Crowe played 77 Tests

Sri Lanka snatch place in World Series Cup finals

By OUR SPORTS STAFF... AT FIRST glance, Sri Lanka might have been mistaken for makeweights in the World Series Cup... Sri Lanka snatched a place in the World Series Cup finals...

TABLE showing match results for Sri Lanka and Australia in the World Series Cup. Includes columns for P, W, L, and Pts.

Nicol banishes critics with unique victory

By COLIN MCQUILLAN... THE victory by Peter Nicol, of Scotland, in the QM British squash championship will go a long way towards diluting criticism that followed his refusal to play for his country in the world team championship in November...

Moore clear to play in cup quarter-final

By NICHOLAS HARLING... MANCHESTER Giants were really happy with him," Mike Hanks, their coach, said. "He is going to be a good acquisition for us."

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT... This is a hand sent to me by Martin Hoffman, one of the best analysts in the game. It occurred in a team match in Miami. It illustrates the importance of making the most of your chances.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT... Caro crushed... For decades, the Caro-Kann Defence enjoyed a reputation for immense solidity. Players with the Black pieces using this defence rarely lost, but also had few opportunities to win.

Discovery Channel advertisement for 'BOYZ TOYZ' featuring a train and the text '9PM TONIGHT AND EVERY WEEKDAY'.

'1995 QUIZ OF THE SPORTING YEAR' advertisement listing winners and prizes for various sports categories.

'WORD-WATCHING' advertisement by Philip Howard with a list of words and definitions.

'WINNING MOVE' advertisement by Raymond Keene featuring a chessboard diagram and a chess problem.

SPORT

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 17 1996

Defeat of Korda enhances young Briton's growing reputation

Henman attracts open acclaim

FROM STUART JONES
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
IN MELBOURNE

TIM HENMAN, the national tennis champion, is no longer the centre of parochial attention. The only Briton to reach the second round of the Australian Open here, the 21-year-old from Oxfordshire is beginning to command respect on a global scale and to extract predictions about his future that grow ever brighter. The youngster is too level-headed to be carried away by glowing compliments, agreeable though they may be, and he had virtually no time to bask in them anyway. Little more than 24 hours after knocking out Petr Korda, he was scheduled to return to the scene of his triumph for his next match.

Of the eight new courts built in the second stage of the refurbishment of Flinders Park, considered by common consent to be the most spectacular of the four grand-slam

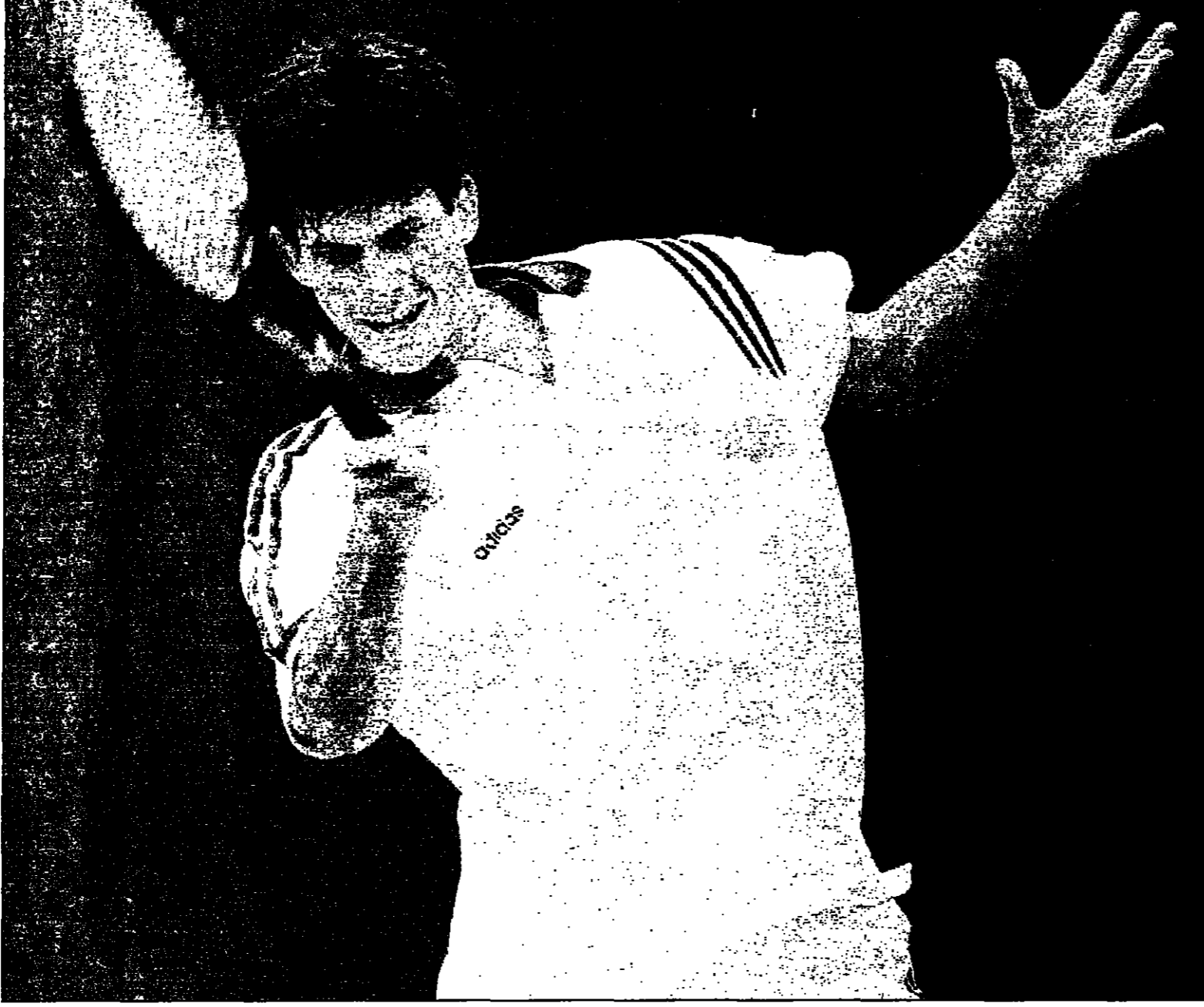
Flinders Park results 40

venues, Henman was performing yesterday in "train-spotters' corner". Yards behind the far backcloth lay the city's main railway line.

Few spectators among the record crowd bothered to visit the most distant retreat in the huge complex until news spread that Korda was in trouble. By the time he was eliminated, 5-7, 7-6, 6-3, 6-4, after three hours, the two open sides of the court were filled with curious bystanders.

Not many had heard of Henman, Korda had, but only through his temporary coach, Tony Pickard. For once Pickard was ambivalent about the outcome. Having extolled the virtues of the Briton before leaving his post as Davis Cup captain, he confessed to "wanting both men to win".

He was so convinced about Henman's ability that, once his fruitful partnership with Stefan Edberg ended a year ago, he sought to guide the nation's most promising individual. Korda, though he has benefited from the rejection,



Henman is a study of concentration as he drives a forehand during his first-round victory against Korda yesterday. Photograph: Julian Herbert

can understand the interest shown by his new mentor.

"If he [Henman] can play at that level," he proclaimed, "I think that he can get to the top 20 easily." Korda should know. For five years he was a member of the elite group before the effects of a damaged hernia, surgically corrected in October, lowered his status.

"He's got a great serve, he can hit the ball well and he's got great potential," Korda, from the Czech Republic, added before issuing a warning. "From what I know from the past, he can play a great match and then follow it with not such a good performance."

Henman accepted the criticism. As an example of his inconsistency, he failed to qualify for the opening tournament of the year in Doha. Ironically, Korda won the title there to lift himself in the world rankings to No 26.

In 1992, the year before he won the Grand Slam Cup, Korda was No 7. He finished as the runner-up in the French Open then, but his grand-slam record is otherwise comparatively undistinguished.

Korda was 4-2 down in each set and was spared a swifter defeat by a combination of Henman's apprehension and excessive caution. The Briton yielded the opening set with a double fault, missed three points to take the second set and four points to capture the third before doing so.

He also held two match points at 5-3 before completing victory with his ninth ace.

Such diffidence would doubtless have been punished by a fitter and more combative opponent, as Greg Rusedski was forcibly to be reminded during the closing match of the day on the centre court.

Britain's other representative in the men's singles was heading towards an even more startling upset when, 2-1

up in sets, he held the second of two points to break an irritated and plainly disheartened Boris Becker and lead 2-1 in the fourth. A net cord assisted his cause.

The ball sat up, giving Rusedski the opening he required. Instead of positive action, though, he merely pushed his backhand, was

subsequently passed and lost the impetus he had gained. Becker, transformed, dropped only five points in his last seven service games to go through 6-4, 3-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Rusedski struck the fastest service measured at Flinders Park, one of only a dozen aces, timed at 217kph (three short of his world record) and punched holes in Becker's belief. "I wasn't sure I was going to leave the court as the winner," the No 4 seed conceded.

Since being crowned as the champion in 1991, Becker had reached the second round only once. He paid tribute to the lone Briton to have joined him there. "I'm amazed at the number of matches Henman's played recently. That's a good sign. It shows that he's hungry."

Rusedski agreed with Korda's forecast - whatever Henman's fate today against Jonas Bjorkman, whom he beat last year.

Clare Wood, Britain's sole entrant in the women's singles, predictably could resist neither a blustery wind in the afternoon nor the second seed, Conchita Martinez and went out 6-4, 6-1.



Rusedski, beaten in five sets by Becker, is congratulated by his relieved opponent as they leave the court

Ban threat leaves Mason on thin ice

A woman lance corporal from Scotland faces being banned from competing in the skeleton bobsleigh World Cup series because the organisers say only men should compete in the event, in which athletes hurtle head-first down slopes on sleighs that look like tea trays with runners.

Cecilia Mason, who finished 39th ahead of nine men, in the first World Cup race in Altenburg, Germany, last Sunday is the only woman to have taken part in the series of a sport in which competitors sometimes reach 85mph during descents.



Mason controversy

John Goodbody on how a men-only ruling is affecting a British bobsleigh competitor

Yesterday, she was on her way with the rest of the Great Britain team to La Plagne, France, for the next event in the World Cup.

However, her presence in the opening event has worried the International Bobsleigh and Toboggan Federation, which will decide before the race on Saturday whether she can compete.

In bobsleigh and luge, there are separate World Cup and European Cup events for women. However, for skeleton bobsleigh no female-only races exist and there is nothing in the federation's ruling that says riders must be male.

Lance Corporal Mason, 20, from Memus, near Forfar, said: "I want to take part in the World Cup and qualify for the world championships in Calgary next month. The other competitors do not mind that I am a woman. They have been most welcoming."

Mason has been competing in the sport since November 1994, when she watched other competitors in Germany where she has been stationed with the Royal Corps of Signals.

She has been in full-time

training since October, practising on bobsleigh tracks in Europe with the rest of the British competitors.

Sergeant Richard Rochester, of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, the British team manager, said: "When she was picked for the British team, she was selected on her merits, not on her sex. Some officials in the international federation think there is an unwritten rule which will stop



Mason displays her skill during a descent at Altenburg

Fifa sets collision course with FA over foreigners

By JOHN GOODBODY

FIFA, football's world governing body, and the English football authorities were on a collision course yesterday over the European Court of Justice's ruling on the international transfer system and the number of foreign players that can be fielded by clubs.

Sepp Blatter, the Fifa secretary general, said yesterday that he will order national football federations to maintain the outlawed limits on the number of foreigners in European club competitions. The world governing body is giving its full backing to Uefa, the European governing body, which is refusing to alter its regulations in the middle of this season's competitions on the Continent.

Blatter said the rule limiting clubs to fielding three foreigners plus two "assimilated" players must be maintained by the clubs. An "assimilated" player is one who has lived in the country for at least five years or has played in a youth team in that country.

"This means that a club can sign foreign players if it wants to, but at the same time, the rule will prevent it from simply doing what it likes," Blatter said.

Fifa is effectively mounting a challenge to the ruling last month on the case of Jean-Marc Bosman by the European Court of Justice that football's regulations broke European Union (EU) laws and that footballers were entitled to the same freedom of movement within the EU after a contract has ended as other workers.

The FA Premier League has already scrapped its rules restricting the number of EU nationals that can play in a team and, yesterday, opposed Uefa on the controversial Interotto Cup when its clubs voted not to participate in the 1996 competition.

Rick Parry, the Premier League chief executive, said: "This decision has been taken purely on practical considerations - in particular, the overlap with the European championship and the starting dates of the FA Carling Premiership season."

Venables restores Ince for England gathering

By RUSSELL KEAPSON

PAUL INCE, the Internazionale midfielder player, has been welcomed back into the England fold. Terry Venables, the England coach, has included Ince in his party for squad training at Bisham Abbey next week, an indication that he remains an integral part of Venables's plans for the European championship.

Ince, 28, made his last appearance for England in the 1-1 draw against Romania at Wembley in October 1994. He was left out of the squad for the game against Uruguay last spring because of his involvement in a court case and then withdrew from the Umbro Cup tournament in the summer while his protracted transfer from Manchester United was completed.

An initially fraught spell with Inter led to his continued absence this season and

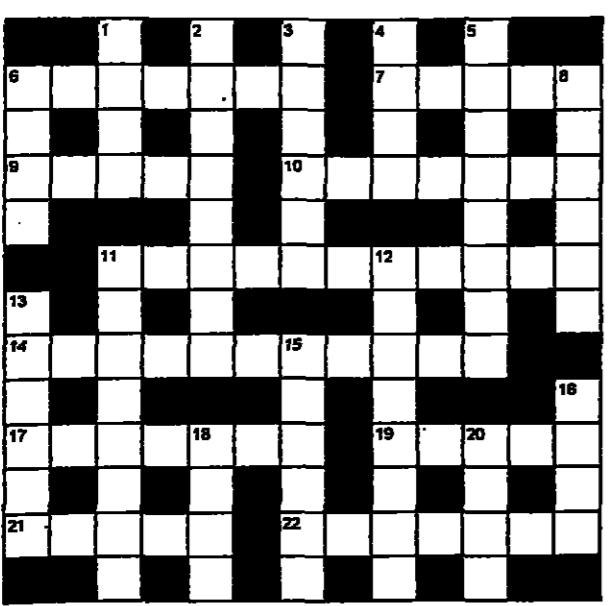
Newcastle's double aim .. 40

Venables said: "Paul needed time to settle in Italy. I've been abroad myself and it is not easy. It is a new club, a new language and everything takes time. He's got that experience behind him now and he's playing well. He's confident again and it's the right time to bring him back."

With no game until Bulgaria visit Wembley on March 27, Venables views the 25-strong squad session as vital to his planning "Getting the players in January gives us the chance to do the detailed work that has not been possible until now," he said. "Usually, we have been preparing for specific opposition. My aim is to make a good side better."

Though Venables announced last week that he intends to stand down after Euro '96, he is still keen to involve fringe players. Alan Wright, the Aston Villa full back, Ugo Ehiogu, his defensive team-mate, and Sol Campbell, the Tottenham Hotspur utility player, have been included for the get-together. "With Graeme Le Saux, sadly unavailable, Wright is the one new name," Venables said. "He and Graeme were rivals for the same position at Blackburn and, like Graeme, he is quick and a good footballer."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- 6 To compress (7)
 - 7 Month Browning longed for England (5)
 - 9 Gradually narrow (5)
 - 10 Large Spanish ship (7)
 - 11 Seer's sphere (7,4)
 - 14 (Eg kill) without emotion (2,4,5)
 - 17 A glass: a pigeon: part of lock (7)
 - 19 Live: endure (5)
 - 21 Fights of honour (5)
 - 22 At top speed (4,3)
- DOWN
- 1 Witty remark (4)
 - 2 Treachery (8)
 - 3 Elevation (6)
 - 4 Bucket (4)
 - 5 (Drawing) without assistance (8); discretion (4,4)
 - 6 Place of activity (4)
 - 8 Missing company (6)
 - 11 Trunchion-shaped salad veg (8)
 - 12 Avert gaze (4,4)
 - 13 With a special talent (6)
 - 15 Deprived (6)
 - 16 Nuisance: other half of Buda (4)
 - 18 Final: endure (4)
 - 20 Computer-screen command symbol (4)

SOLUTION TO No 679
ACROSS: 1 Scarf 4 Cassius 8 Labyrinth 9 Ape 10 Hut 11 Expedient 12 Berth 13 Nurse 16 Testifier 18 Fat 20 Ace 21 Spaxulair 22 Torrent 23 Ernie
DOWN: 1 Sylph 2 Arbiter 3 Force the issue 4 Canapé 5 Schadenfreude 6 Image 7 Spectre 12 Bit part 14 Refrain 15 Divert 17 Swear 19 There

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DOWN: 1 Grand 2 Upper 3 Steady 4 Rebecca 5 Epitaph 6 Denouement 9 Dotted line 13 Calypso 14 Patient 16 Gauche 19 Raze 26 Silly

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